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THE Wrestler

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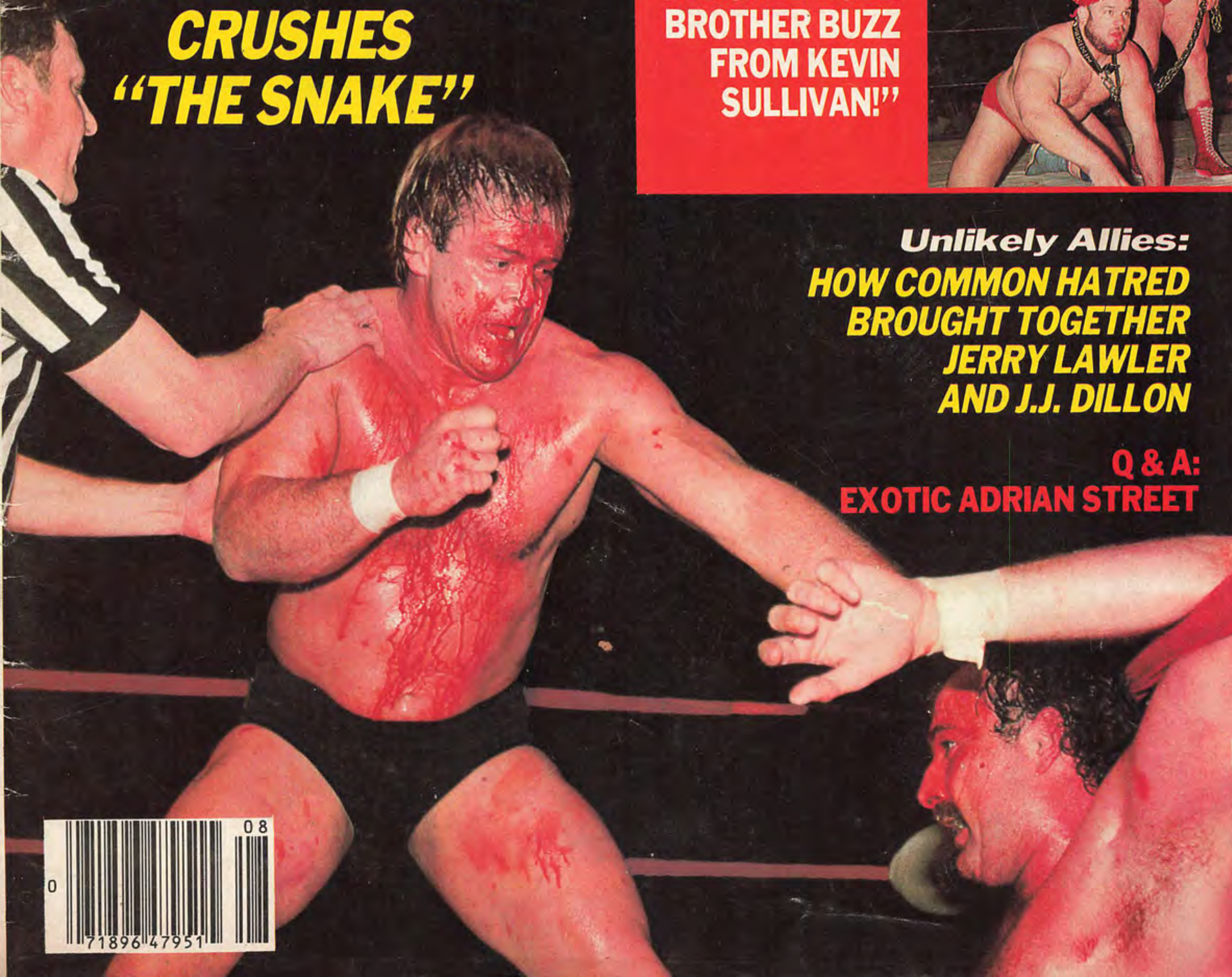

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HOW COMMON HATRED BROUGHT TOGETHER JERRY LAWLER AND J.J. DILLON

Q & A: EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET

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A current issue of a famous medical journal reports on a recent government controlled study. This study, conducted over a 24 year period on 5,000 underweight and overweight men and women, proves that being underweight is as injurious to health and longevity as being overweight.

At last, no matter what you have tried, no matter what you have done, if you are a normally healthy person, you can gain up to 5, 10, 15 pounds or more safely, surely, pleasantly, and that's a guaranteed money-back fact.

Yes now, even if you have been thin for years, you can have the fuller, more attractive body you have always wanted without dangerous drugs, without heart-straining exercise, without unpleasant tasting medicines!

This exciting method is easy, pleasant, and medically sound beyond a shadow of a doubt, and your own Doctor could tell you the same thing.

HERE'S ALL YOU DO

Before meals, or whenever you feel like it, you take delicious, chewable, nutritionally fortified GAIN tablets and that's it! No other medication to take. Nothing difficult or unpleasant to do, and without even being aware of it, a wonderfully exciting change takes place.

Those high-calorie GAIN tablets are rich in body-building materials! They not only add weight themselves, but they sharpen your appetite! You look forward to mealtimes, and without even realizing it, you start to eat more and almost immediately the weight gaining process begins!

As you follow your GAIN Plan which includes nutritional high calorie menus. You add pounds and inches to your arms, legs, chest, hips, everywhere. You'll be amazed at the fantastic transformation that occurs . . . as thin, unattractive areas start to develop into new magnetic appeal. You'll be thrilled to discover that as you gain weight you will have more pep and energy for all the wonderful things in life!

THINK OF WHAT THIS CAN MEAN TO YOU

If you are one of those unfortunate people who can't wear all the new high style clothes you want to wear . . . if you are ashamed of the way you look in a bathing suit . . . embarrassed because your legs are too thin and spindly . . . your chest is too flat . . . your arms aren't the full, rounded limbs they were meant to be . . . If you long for a more attractive-looking body, the safe, pleasant GAIN Plan can be the answer to your prayers!

Yes, now, with the GAIN Plan to help, it's so easy, so pleasant to add pounds and inches of firm, attractive flesh . . . so fulfilling to feel better, stronger, more vital and alive! But don't take our word for it. Prove it to yourself at our risk!

If you sincerely want to gain weight, and to look better and feel better as a result,

HERE IS OUR OFFER . . .

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Try the fabulous new GAIN Plan in your own home at our risk. Subject it to any test you like. Weigh yourself before you start. Weigh yourself later. If you haven't started to see substantial weight gain within 7 days, and if you don't feel better and look better as a result, or, if you are not completely satisfied for any reason, PAY NOTHING! It's just as simple as that.

If you are in doubt . . . even if you think nothing can possibly help you, for the sake of your appearance, and your happiness, at least try it! If the GAIN Plan works the way we know it will, you'll agree it is worth the few dollars it cost.

On the other hand, if it doesn't work the way you expected, it costs you nothing, and a least you have had the satisfaction of trying it at our expense.

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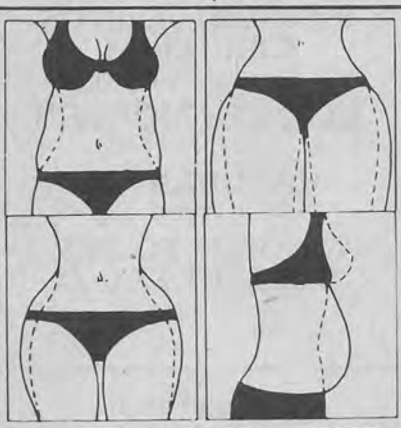

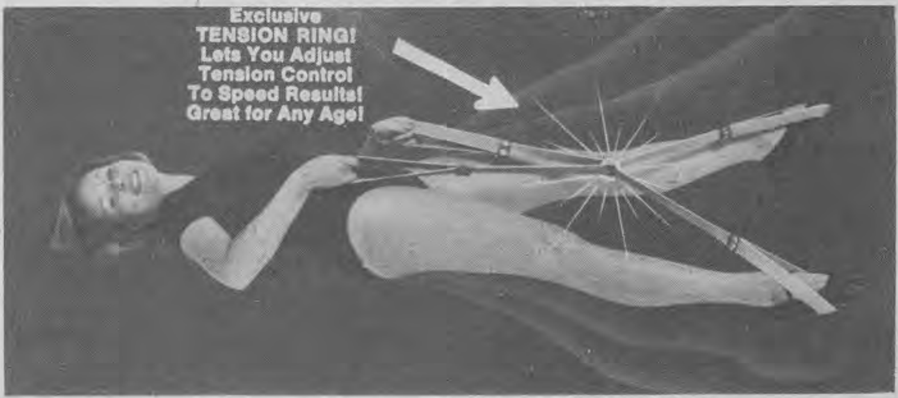

IN JUST 7 SHORT MINUTES A DAY with the "miracle" of SYNOMETRICS (scientific concept of ISOMETRIC + ISOTONIC) ...the fantastic new discovery for **speed shaping** away ugly, embarrassing fat and flab...to reveal a brand new rock-hard, lean, trim, handsome body!

IKE BERGER explains SYNOMETRICS™... the new EASY speed method for figure beauty

What is SYNOMETRICS? You've probably heard about the Isotonic and Isometric principle of body dynamics for years. Each method has its own believers and supporters. I used BOTH methods in my daily training. Finally, I developed a special exercise unit that employed BOTH methods AT THE SAME TIME *in one device*. The effect was simply amazing. I was able to keep in trim, slim shape in only a fraction of the time I previously needed!

The Science of SYNOMETRICS

I later learned the scientific reason for this amazing result. It's called SYNERGISM—meaning that when you combine two methods the result is greater than the both of them separately. I now called my new discovery SYNOMETRICS and developed a special exercise unit I call the SPEED SHAPER. And that's just what it is... a speed method to give you results in minutes, NOT hours! Now... build yourself a "fantastic looking body" with the incredible SYNOMETRICS—the invention that works on the exciting new scientific concept of ISOTONIC + ISOMETRIC.

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The Wrestler

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YOUR LETTERS

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A TRIBUTE TO DAVID

I just recieved my June 1984 issue of *The Wrestler,* and when I saw David Von Erich on the cover, my first thought was that he had won another major title to add to his growing list. You see, I had no idea David had died.

I also lost a brother unexpectedly, and I feel great sorrow for the whole Von Erich family.

I commend Craig Peters and the entire staff of *The Wrestler* for the excellent tribute and coverage they provided on something so sad. There is no doubt in my mind why your magazines are rated number one.

The death of David Von Erich deeply affected the lives of wrestling fans around the world. Aside from being a great wrestler, David was a fine human being.

I started leafing through the pages of the magazine, and when I got to the tribute to David I was absolutely shocked. I almost cried, and as I write this I am fighting back the tears.

I would like to send my condolences to the Von Erich family. The pain of their loss will lessen, but as the memory of my own brother stays in my heart, so will the memory of David remain in their hearts and in the hearts of millions of wrestling fans everywhere.

JUDY GRONDIN
Federal Way, WA

NOT-SO-FABULOUS ONES

An open letter to "Fabulous Ones" Stan Lane and Steve Keirn:

When you first left the Mid-Southern area, everyone missed you and wanted you to come back. Now you couldn't pay them to take you back. We believed in you and trusted you. You said you'd never leave for any reason. You said you'd never let us down. But you lied to us. There was a special bond between you and the fans, and you broke that bond and it will never be there again. We don't love or need you anymore.

AMY GARST
Livermore, KY

EXAMINING SANTANA

I am writing in reference to your wonderful column, "X-Ray," where you have some real experts analyze a different wrestler each month. I am referring in par-

(Continued on page 48)

Now—enjoy a life of unbelievable riches, lasting love and constant protection with the secrets in this startling WITCH BOOK—

THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT

Whatever it is you need or want, Witchcraft can get it for you quickly, easily, and automatically, say these experts. You'll discover how it can bring abundant and overflowing wealth, find or bring back a lover, ward off evil influences, and much more—step-by-step in plain English, with complete easy-to-follow instructions!

Yes . . . Witchcraft! Every time you hear the word it brings with it the feelings of deep occult secrets—secrets that you would like to know so that your life can be better; so that your enemies will stop bothering you; so that serenity, love, power and comfort can be yours!

THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT lays bare these secrets for the first time: Do you want a bank account bursting at the seams with money? A love life that would make a sultan envious? Supreme power to crush your enemies and reward your friends? What would it be worth to you to utter a simple incantation that would cause any pain to vanish? Or say another, and immediately recover some lost object?

What would it be worth to you to fly through time and space, on astral wings, as Witches do . . . go wherever you wish . . . do whatever you wish . . . without being detected . . . watch the antics of others behind closed doors . . . hear private conversations . . . make time run forward or backward . . . read tomorrow's newspaper in a "black mirror" . . . find out what really happened in history . . . make your face old or young at will!

BRINGS AUTOMATIC ASSURED SUCCESS!

Witchcraft can bring your heart's desire! You can use it to heal someone, influence the boss to give you that raise, or make someone stop bothering you! It's easy! The easiest thing in the world! You don't have to be wealthy or super-intelligent to get started! Thousands of ordinary people all over the world are using Witchcraft Power right now!

Witches have known for centuries that people are scared of them and their powers! And rightly so! NOW YOU CAN SHARE THE SAME POWER that gives you—literally—life and death control over other persons! Is someone bothering you? No problem at all, with Magic Witchcraft. For example, there is a spell called the "Cross Not My Path" ritual, for people who are having neighbor trouble. When you use it, you know you will never again have trouble with this neighbor!

With these amazing Witchcraft secrets, other people will look up to you—in awe—you'll automatically dazzle others with your power to make things happen at your will, you'll be Master of your destiny, and never have to apologize to anyone for anything!

Whatever you want or need, whatever frustration is bothering you, Witchcraft will help you. It is not evil—nor is it Black Magic. Like electricity, it is simply a power given by nature for the use of men, to make life easier.

You'll see how to get paid without working . . . how to get expensive clothes and furs FREE . . . how to get a first-class plane seat FREE . . . how to vacation at the finest hotels, motels, pools and pleasure palaces, start living like a millionaire as Witches do!

AMAZING TECHNIQUE HAS HELPED THOUSANDS!

Witchcraft secrets like these can make you rich faster than anything else in the world! Here's how others have used them to make miracles happen in their daily lives!

You'll see how Vern, a man who likes to give a lot of expensive parties, was always short of cash until he discovered the amazing WITCH'S MONEY JAR—now all he has to do is dip in, for it brings him an endless flow of cash! Evelyn, a waitress, was always lending money to friends, and was always broke. Finally, she placed her last dollar on the table, and worked the MONEY MAGNET SPELL over it. All at once, dozens of people who had borrowed money from her, rushed to pay her back!

Hank was perpetually broke. One night he got together with some friends, and they decided to cast the MONEY SPELL. The very next day, Hank received in the mail a check for some $250 worth of insurance. (He had never heard of the company that sent the check, he was not insured with them, and had never even made a claim—but he accepted the money.) Another member of the group that used the spell, a 40-year-old secretary, received an automobile as a gift! All the other members of the group received amazing windfalls of money, as well! You'll see how Dexter, a retiree, lives RENT FREE *and* receives $200 a week at the age of 78, with a secret you'll find in this Witch Book! You'll see how Claudine, a secretary, was able to wear the finest, most expensive furs—FREE—and spend weekends at an expensive ski lodge in the mountains, where she met a wonderful man! How Ruth L., a widow—with nothing but a small pension, and a little savings—received her dream house, by using a simple 5-minute ritual on page 38 of this book!

Using the same Witchcraft secrets, YOU can achieve peace of mind and freedom from money worries for the rest of your life!

YOU CAN HEAL YOURSELF AS WITCHES DO!

Feeling sick today? Plagued by a lot of troublesome illnesses? Perhaps some relative is sick and constantly demanding your attention? Or perhaps it is even a pet that needs help? With the MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT, you can cure anything, say authors Gavin and Yvonne Frost: "In our experience . . . we have not found a single incurable disease!"

• **ANDY DISSOLVES A GALLSTONE!**—Andy M. developed gallstones. When his illness became too troublesome to ignore, he went to a doctor. Urine tests revealed that he was chronically alkaline. His body was badly out of balance. Using this Witchcraft method to restore balance to the mind and body—in a short while, X-rays showed that he had no more gallstones! Andy never again suffered the excruciating pain of passing stones!

In the same way, say Gavin and Yvonne Frost, almost all illness can be prevented. You are actually employing an ancient Witchcraft method to remove diseased tissue! Even if you do not have any belief in the results, the power will work for you!

One woman, who had been in a wheelchair for 26 years, due to polio and arthritis, used the Witchcraft healing method, and reported that she had no pain and could walk and garden again! A man reported that his son's deep 3rd degree burns miraculously healed overnight!

• **SO SIMPLE A CHILD USES IT!**—A 4-year-old girl asked if she could try to heal a man who was limping—due to a torn ligament—with this simple Witchcraft healing method. In a matter of moments, she started her chant, laying her hands on the weak ankle. The man was miraculously cured! To skeptics, this should be convincing PROOF that anyone can use it!

AMAZING POWER CAN BE YOURS!

Whether you want infinite wealth, or just a comfortable new home, financial security, fine possessions, love, companionship, new health and vigor, power to control others, secret knowledge, protection from evil, or anything else, the magic power of Witchcraft can bring it to you quickly, easily and automatically! It's the easiest thing in the world!

• **HOW TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE!**—Would you like to be able to see the future? You CAN with the magic Black Mirror you'll see how to make on page 23. All you need is some ink and a bowl of water. Then use the chant on this page, and you will be able to see many things. One man uses it to read tomorrow's newspaper. YOU can use it to check the stock market or that important horse race!

• **MAKE TIME RUN BACKWARD OR FORWARD!**—A Witch uses ancient methods to make time stand still or to run it backward or forward! To make your face look young or old at will, all you need is some morning dew, and the instructions on page 27. You can fly through time and space, on astral wings, go anywhere, do anything, with the simple method on page 126. You can visit a friend, look in on an acquaintance and see what he is doing—even appear in someone's dreams, and convince that person to do whatever you wish!

• **SECRETS OF SILENT PERSUASION!**—There is a magic handshake that Witches often use, revealed on page 62. With this secret, you can implant a thought in someone's mind! You can use this Witchcraft power to dominate others! Control your boss! Make someone love you! Leave your enemies groveling in the dust! There is even a gazing technique Witches use on page 45, for identical thoughts. With this secret, you can read your friend's mind and share his or her identical thoughts!

SEND TODAY FOR YOUR NO-RISK COPY!

Witchcraft can make you rich, even in a ghetto! You should never have to worry about the rent, or where the next dollar is coming from, never have to apologize to a boss! No matter how poor you are now, THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT can bring you a life filled to the brim with pleasure, wealth, and all the glittering luxuries of the world! To get your copy of this amazing Witch Book, simply fill out and mail the no-risk coupon!

Now! Let This Amazing Witch Book Bring You INFINITE WEALTH, FINE POSSESSIONS, A COMFORTABLE NEW HOME, FINANCIAL SECURITY, LOVE, CONTROL OVER OTHERS, And More—Easily And Automatically!

For centuries, these Witchcraft secrets were hushed up, so that those in power could stay in power! Feudal lords kept their bondsmen as slaves. Factory owners kept their employees in dreaded sweatshops, because these masters knew they must not allow their workers to realize that they need not labor their lives away. Witchcraft was suppressed because it works! Not because of any "evil" in it. If it hadn't worked, no one would have worried about it. If you want to gain power, all you need is this amazing Witch Book!

By using these Witchcraft secrets, you too can change your life and gain health, wealth, someone to love—or anything else—surely, swiftly and automatically!

• **THE WITCH'S MONEY JAR!**—You'll discover the secret of the Witch's Money Jar, a mysterious jar that fills with money—whenever you want or need it! All you need is some water, pennies, and an ordinary jar or bowl! You'll be amazed at the speed with which it fills with money—a seemingly endless supply of needed cash!

• **THE WITCH'S MONEY MAGNET!**—You'll see how to magnetize a dollar bill so that it multiples! All you need to make your own Witch's Money Magnet is a dollar bill, a green candle, and the words on page 38. Once you do this, your dollar will double and keep doubling! You'll enjoy glittering luxuries, and start living like a millionaire, as Witches do!

• **THE WITCH'S BLACK MIRROR!**—Just as your TV set has been called your "window on the world," so the Black Mirror is your "window on the psychic world"—the world of the unknown. Making your own personal Black Mirror takes only a few moments and can open the way to unguessable visions. All you need is a bowl of water, some ink, and the chant on page 23. Suddenly you will see scenes from other places and times, or any scene you wish to see!

IN THIS WITCH BOOK YOU'LL DISCOVER . . .

- How to Cast Spells that Really Work!
- Your Magic Window on the World!
- Personal Protection!
- Telepathy Made Easy!
- Influencing Others to Do Your Bidding!
- Controlling a Conversation!
- The Technique of Silent Persuasion!
- Using Witchcraft to Find Friends!
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- How to Always Win with Luck Spells!
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- Inhaling Cosmic Energy!
- Recharging Your Cosmic Batteries!
- Raising Your Vital Energy Level!
- How to Keep Evil Forces Away!

MEET THE AUTHORS

GAVIN FROST, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.D., is Archbishop of the Church of Wicca, New Bern, North Carolina with national headquarters in Salem, Missouri, branches in several states and worldwide membership. He is Marshal of the Gold Star of England, with the right to wear the Saffron Robe and one of the very few Witches in the Western Hemisphere privileged to wear the authentic mark of initiation on his wrist. Although descended from a long line of mystics and scholars, and formerly a Vice-President and Director of International Operations for major aerospace companies, he prefers to be thought of as a humble teacher.

Mrs. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D., with her husband Gavin Frost, devotes her time to giving private instruction and publishing *Survival*, the newsletter of the Church of Wicca, of which she is a Bishop.

Articles by or about Gavin and Yvonne Frost have appeared in such national publications as *Midnight* and the *National Enquirer*.

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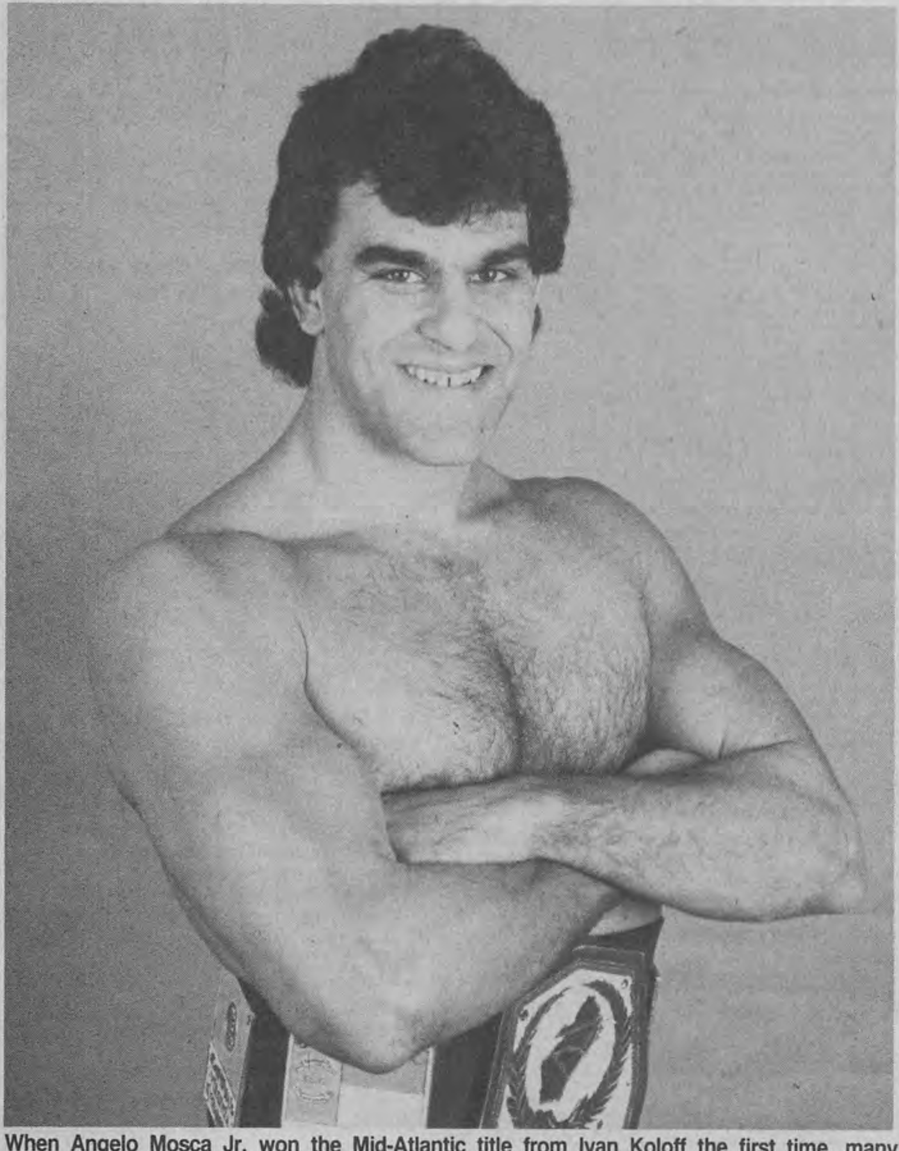
WHAT'S HAPPENING!

By BILL APTER



When Angelo Mosca Jr. won the Mid-Atlantic title from Ivan Koloff the first time, many people called it an accident. Now that he has won it from Koloff again, maybe he'll get his just due.

The Mid-Atlantic heavyweight belt is back around the waist of **Angelo Mosca Jr.** Mosca Jr. defeated **Ivan Koloff** for the title on April 22 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

"It's been a long road back to the championship," Mosca Jr. said in an interview several days after regaining the belt. "My father helped me train a lot over the last few months, and he's been just great. He's provided me with a lot of support. I don't think I could have regained the title without him.

"See, back when I was wrestling Koloff in a TV match and Gary Hart and Kabuki entered the ring," Mosca Jr. continued, "my dad lost a lot of sight in his right eye. He's had to wrestle with a patch over that eye. Now, I respect Koloff for his wrestling ability, but I don't respect him at all for his association with Hart, and for what those guys did to my father. And yeah, I guess getting back the title is part of my getting revenge on Koloff. But more than that, I'm glad for the fans, because they've given me a lot of support, and I'm dedicating this title reign to them. Koloff? He doesn't re-

(Continued on page 54)

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CORRESPONDENTS Reports

Las Vegas, Nevada *(Correspondent*—**Jay Elliott Jr.):** Steve Keirn and Stan Lane, The Fabulous Ones, lit up the Showboat Sports Pavillion ring as brightly as the Las Vegas strip itself as they made their Vegas debut against AWA junior heavyweight champion Steve Regal and former National heavyweight champ Larry Zbyszko, who was also making his Las Vegas debut.

Utilizing quick tags, The Fab Ones controlled the early stages of the contest. Both Keirn and Lane used armdrags and armbars to keep Regal on the canvas and wear him down.

Regal gouged Keirn's eyes and made it to his corner to tag Zbyszko, who immediately pulled Keirn into the rulebreakers' corner. Keirn was brutalized by the wily Zbyszko with punches and kicks. Keirn finally ducked a punch and made his way back across the ring to tag Lane.

Lane exploded, decking both Regal (standing on the ring apron) and Zbyszko with a tornadolike attack. Zbyszko tagged Regal, who entered reluctantly.

The Fabulous Ones continued to implement frequent tags and a furious array of scientific maneuvers to wear Regal down. In the end, it was Keirn pinning Regal for the victory.

In other bouts, Blackjack Mulligan defeated Nick Bockwinkel by disqualification . . . Jesse Ventura and Mr. Saito defeated Crusher and Baron Von Raschke . . . Blackjack Lanza drew with Regal.

NWA World champion Ric Flair inches his way to the ropes, forcing challenger Kerry Von Erich to release his Boston crab.

San Antonio, Texas *(Correspondent*—**Julio Alvarado):** In the main event, NWA World champion Ric Flair defended his title against Kerry Von Erich.

In the opening minutes of the encounter, Von Erich and Flair traded armlocks and headlocks. Flair trapped Von Erich in an abdominal stretch off the ropes, but Von Erich reversed the hold. Flair grabbed the ring ropes to force the break.

Later in the match, Von Erich accidently ran into referee Bronco Lubich, who was knocked out of the ring. The match continued, as Von Erich bodyslammed Flair and climbed to the top rope. Von Erich's flying bodypress set up a pin, but there was no referee to count the fall. Alternate referee David Manning ran from the dressing room area into the ring to count the fall, but Flair powered out at the two-count.

Flair then picked Von Erich up and dropped him spread-eagled across the top rope. Manning disqualified Flair, who went into a rage and hit the official. Flair was fined $2,500 by World Class Wrestling for striking the referee but walked out of the ring with his title.

In other bouts, Junkyard Dog and Iceman Parsons defeated The Missing Link and Kamala by disqualification . . . Chick Donovan drew with Super Destroyer I . . . Kelly Kiniski defeated El Bracero . . . Kevin and Mike Von Erich defeated Terry Gordy and Buddy Roberts.

Beaumont, Texas *(Correspondent*—**Joey Miguez):** The fans at the Beaumont Civic Center enjoyed a six-man tag team main event in

(Continued on page 56)

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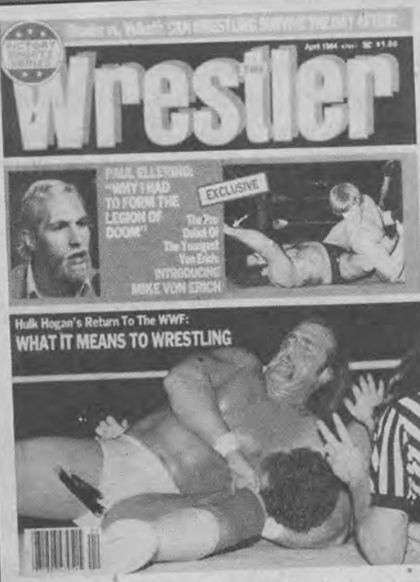

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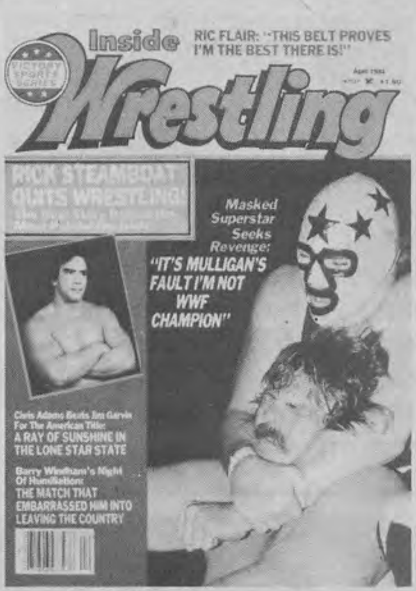

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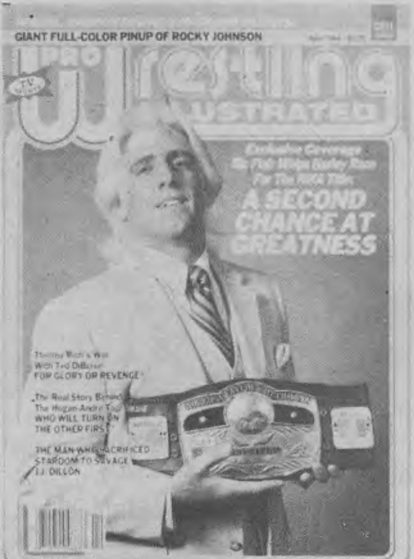

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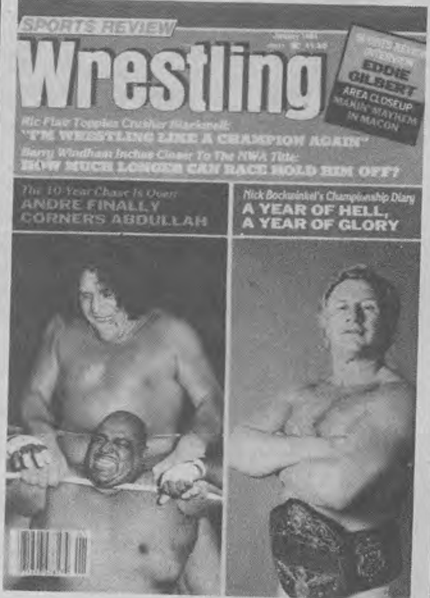

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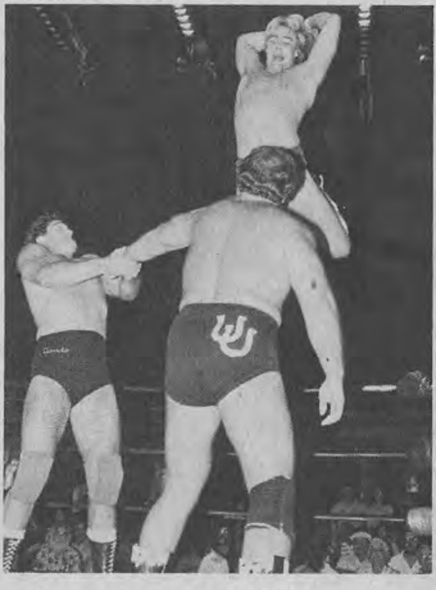
Jimmy, Jerry, and Johnny Valiant last wrestled together in New York in 1979 (above). There are no plans for a reunion. Nor is it likely that Barry Windham (teaming with Mike Rotondo against Ron Bass, top right) will team with his father, Blackjack Mulligan.

Q: "My question is for "The Boogie Woogie Man" Jimmy Valiant: Why don't you call your brothers, Johnny and Jerry, and have them help you get rid of Paul Jones and The Assassins?"—Robert Buskick, Rutland, OH

A: "*Whoo!* Bobby Buskick, that's an idea whose time has come," Valiant said. "But right now, Luscious Johnny and Gentleman Jerry are playing the lead roles in their own lives, if you know what I mean. I love 'em, and I love 'em enough to let them do what they gotta do. I've got some other brothers helping me, brothers of the soul variety, like Junkyard Dog. I trust the Dog like I would trust Johnny or Jerry. Me and JYD are gonna Boogie Woogie all over Paul Jones' face."

Q: "I have a question for Barry Windham: Now that your father is wrestling in the AWA, do you have any plans to come up here and wrestle? I think you would make a great tag team with Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell against Ken Patera, Crusher Blackwell, and Sheik Al-Kaissie."—Ingrid Keiffer, Des Plaines, IL



A: Windham replied: "The last time I wrestled in St. Louis I ran into Greg Gagne, and he suggested the same thing. I would like to wrestle with Dad again, and I'd like to help out Greg and Jim, who are two great wrestlers, but I have my hand into too many things in Florida to go to the AWA. I have the U.S. tag team title to defend with Mike Rotondo, and I still want another chance to wrestle Ric Flair."

Q: "I'd like to ask Paul Ellering what he thinks makes him so 'precious.' With that crewcut

(Continued on page 52)

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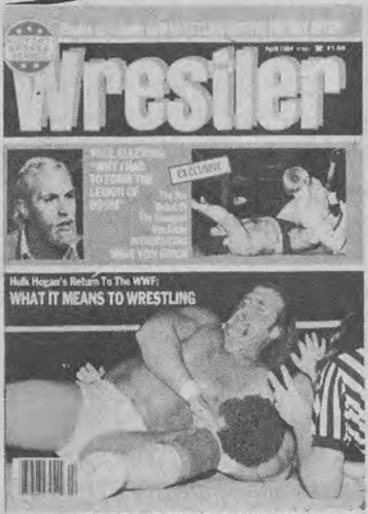

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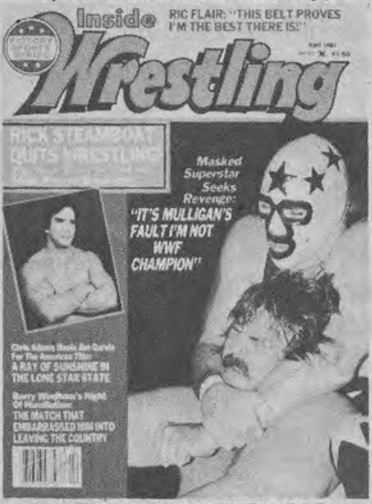

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Thumbs Up

Each issue, *The Wrestler* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.

Thumbs Up to Precious Paul Ellering: Ellering, the mastermind of "The Legion of Doom," achieved his goal of controlling the two major titles in the Georgia area when The Spoiler won the National heavyweight championship from Brad Armstrong in Wheeling, West Virginia. Ellering's Road Warriors have a firm grip on the National tag team championship. Despite his methods, Ellering has to be commended for his guidance of The Spoiler and the Warriors. Ellering's real test, however, lies ahead. History has proven how difficult it is to train two different champions at the same time.

Thumbs Up to Jimmy Valiant: In a profession whose rigors have a way of turning friends into enemies, Valiant has demonstrated his loyalty to his good friend Dusty Rhodes. Although the "Boogie Woogie Man" is deeply involved in a feud with Paul Jones in the Mid-Atlantic region, he has promised "The American Dream" that he will team with him in Florida for a match against Kevin Sullivan and "Mad Dog" Buzz Sawyer. Valiant is repaying Rhodes for assisting him in battling Jones' team of The Assassins the month before. The bond between Rhodes and Valiant is a strong one that should endure forever.

Thumbs Up to Chick Donovan: The young man from Macon, Georgia, has made quite an impression on fans in the World Class Texas region after uninspired performances in Georgia and Florida. Donovan, "The Golden Boy," has proven that he is capable of challenging top competitors in his matches with Gen. Skandor Akbar's The Missing Link and other members of Akbar's "Devastation Inc." Donovan credits his improved ring performance to changes in training and diet, but most of all to a change in his wrestling philosophy. We credit Donovan for being flexible enough to make the changes that have made him a better wrestler.

Thumbs Up to Carlos Colon: At one time, WWC Universal champion Colon feared that he would never be able to defeat NWA World champ Ric Flair, and at one point he turned down an opportunity to wrestle Flair. With renewed confidence, Colon once again has decided that he would challenge for the World championship. Recently, on the island of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, Colon defeated Flair in a non-title match. One might argue that Flair did not give a 100 percent effort in the non-title bout, but one cannot deny that Colon, with a confidence booster like a victory over the champ, is now capable of making that title his own.

Thumbs Down

Thumbs Down to Roddy Piper: On "Piper's Pit," a regular feature on the WWF's weekly TV wrestling broadcasts, Piper invited preliminary wrestler Frank Williams to be his guest. Williams, who had never received the opportunity to speak on a wrestling program before, was subject to teasing, ridicule, and, finally, a beating by the supposed host. It is evident that "Piper's Pit" is nothing more than a forum for the manager-wrestler's own personal opinions, and an outlet for his degrading brand of humor. Piper should be damned for his treatment of Williams, and his wasting of the fans' time.

Thumbs Down to Billy Jack: The current Florida State champion must learn to control his enthusiasm in the ring. In his first opportunity to wrestle NWA World champion Ric Flair since arriving in Florida at the beginning of 1984, Billy Jack impressed the fans at the University of South Florida in Tampa. During the match, however, Billy, in a furor to defeat Flair, pushed the referee out of his way. He was immediately disqualified for his actions, and Flair retained his championship. If Billy hopes to win the NWA belt, he'll have to learn to control these outbursts.

Thumbs Down to Larry Zbyszko: Zbyszko has just signed a number of open contracts to wrestle in the AWA. Fans who remember Zbyszko as a scientific wrestler with tremendous fan appeal hoped that in the AWA, an area of the country new to Zbyszko, he might revert to his old, fan-pleasing ways. This, however, has not been the case. It has been reported that Zbyszko is negotiating with manager Bobby Heenan. Zbyszko has also teamed with Roger Kirby and Steve Regal against Steve Keirn and Stan Lane, The Fabulous Ones. Since Zbyszko could not rediscover the qualities that made him a fan favorite now that he is in the AWA, is is doubtful that he ever will.

Thumbs Down to Eric Embry: Embry has thrown out his "all-American boy" image in favor of that of a primping, preening, pretty boy. Embry wrestles with "Gentleman" Ken Timbs as "The Fabulous Blonds," and together they hold the Southwest tag team championship belts. The method in which they have held on to those titles, however, has been highly suspect. The team shows a flagrant disregard for wrestling's rules and regulations. The consensus of the wrestling experts was that Embry had a fine career ahead of him in wrestling if he had the patience to develop his craft properly. Obviously, he didn't, and that's a shame.

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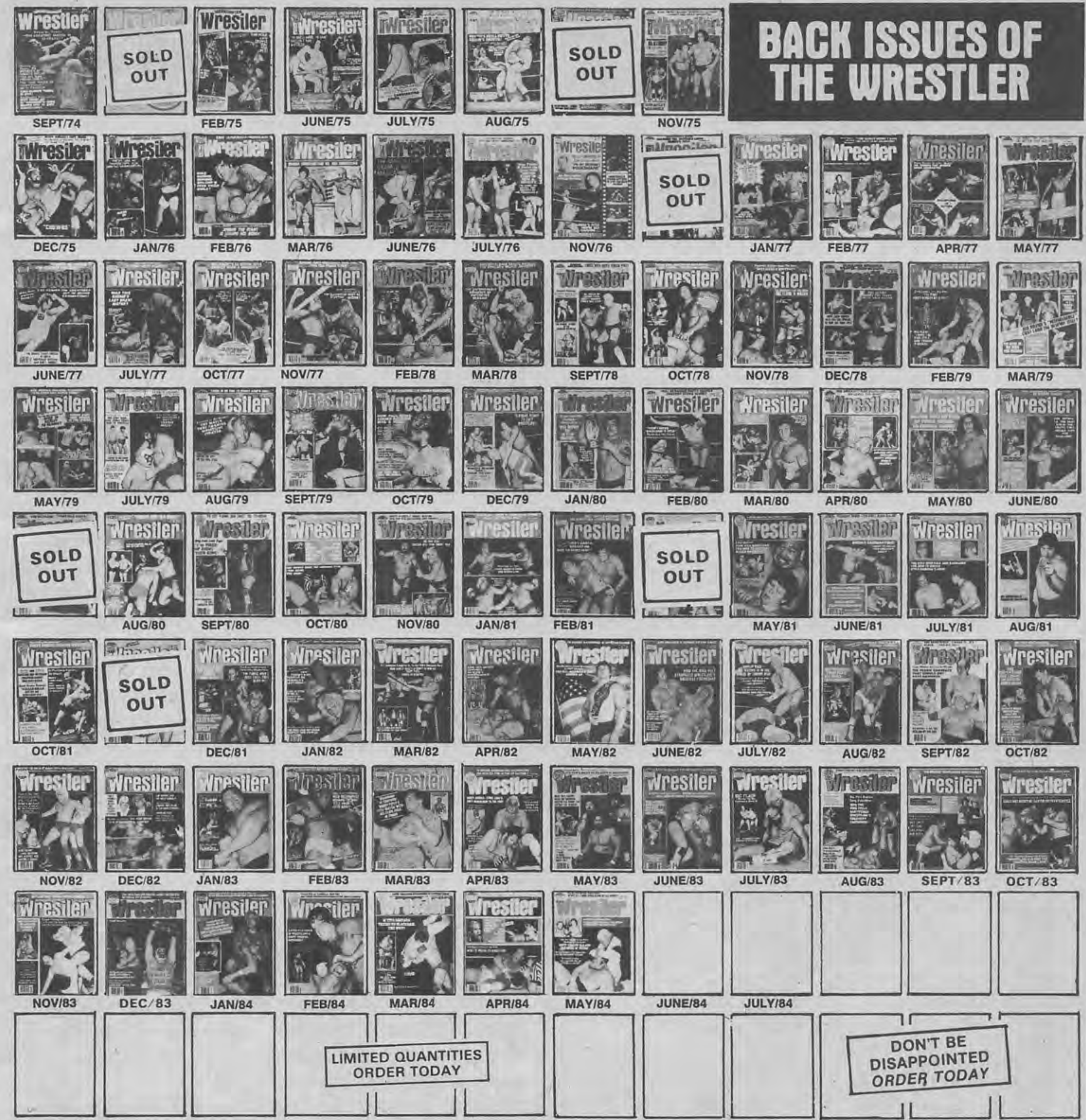

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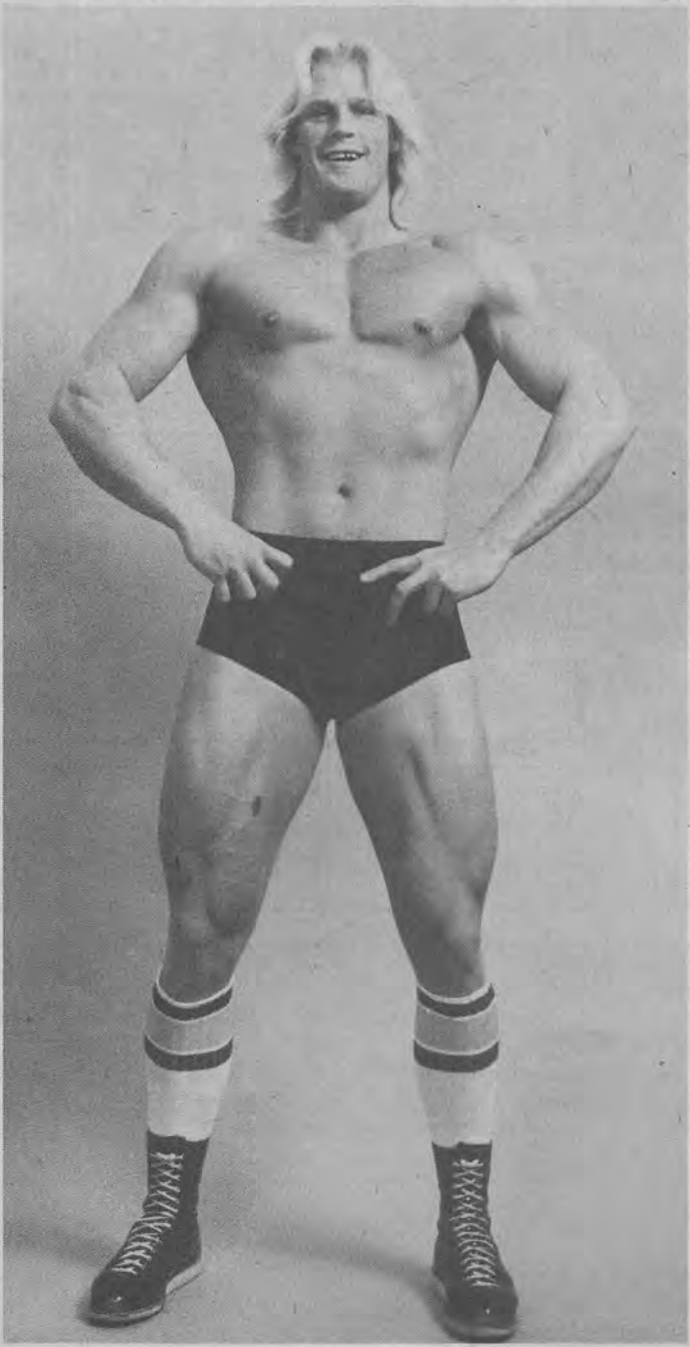

"HE'S SOME KID."

Verne Gagne shook his head as he looked at a photo of Kevin Kelly in a wrestling program. "He's got the tools. He's got everything he needs. I don't just mean the size, which he obviously has. He has guts. Combine that with his size and his determination, and you've got a winner."

The 6'5", 264-pounder was the winner of a Minneapolis Toughman contest, an elimination tournament where boxers with no amateur experience battle for cash prizes.

These controversial contests have been outlawed in a number of areas, and although Gagne is not a proponent of these tournaments, he did acknowledge Kelly's efforts in winning the first prize.

"I figured that if he made it all the way through that, that he could do just about anything," the former AWA champion said. "When he came to me and asked me to make him a professional wrestler, I said yes, based just on that tournament alone. But even though he won the Toughman contest, I still wasn't entirely sure he'd make it through wrestling training."

Gagne enlisted the help of Brad Rheingans to train Kelly. "Verne told me not to hold back," Rheingans said. "He said that Kevin could take it, and that I should go all out. I was surprised Verne said that. I mean, Kevin didn't even have any amateur wrestling background."

While training with Rheingans, Kelly broke his ankle, a result of a missed dropkick attempt. "I was really disappointed," Kelly said, "but it wasn't gonna stop me. It just slowed things down a little."

Gagne wasn't surprised when Kelly came back to him after the injury had healed. "I knew he'd be back," Verne said. "I knew he had the right stuff. I

(Continued on page 20)

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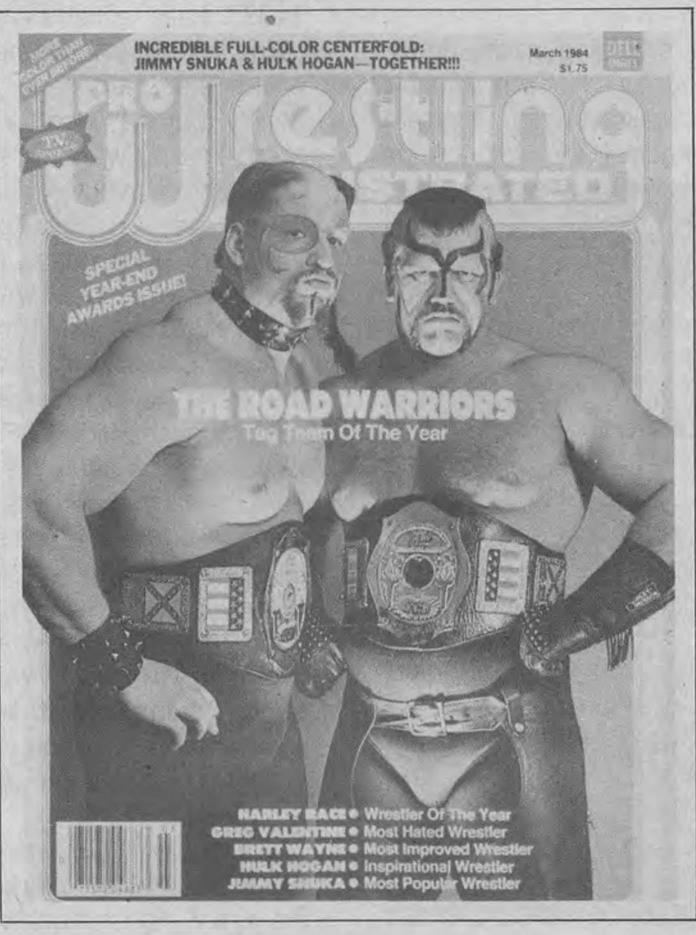

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(Continued from page 18)

think we've succeeded with Kevin. We took those tools and turned him into a wrestler. A lot of the credit goes to Brad. They worked hard. Kevin knows the basics. Now it's up to him to go out there and make it all work on his own."

***

It looks as if Kevin Kelly is holding up the dressing room walls of the Rosemont Horizon with his back as a curious reporter walks in before a recent match. Kelly is leaning against the wall of his

Despite his years of experience, Kenny Jay was no match for Kelly. Young Kevin's muscular arms engulf the head of Jay (above). Kelly whips Jay into the turnbuckles (below).

dressing room in the suburban Chicago arena with his eyes shut tightly. Finally, his legs give way and he sinks to the floor. Fortunately, the walls of the building do not come tumbling down.

"You've never heard of sitting against the wall?" Kelly asked a confused reporter. "It's a skiing exercise I learned when I was a kid. It works the quadriceps [the front thigh muscles] mainly, but it's good for your whole thigh, and it's a good skiing warmup. It gets the blood going. I'm up to three minutes doing it."

Kelly grew up outside of Minneapolis, Minnesota, where participation in skiing, ice skating, and other winter sports were second nature to the youngster. "We didn't have to ski to get to school. I mean, it wasn't like Switzerland or anything, but the snow was there and everyone had skis," he said. "I guess kids in Florida were still riding their bicycles in January. We were skiing and skating."

At an early age it was apparent that Kelly wasn't going to be an average-sized man. He grew quickly in his teenage years. "I was the tall, skinny, clumsy kid," he said. "I was taller than most of my female teachers in seventh grade. My voice was changing, my skin was breaking out—I was a mess. I didn't want to look at anyone, and I didn't want to talk to anyone. That's when I started lifting weights. I didn't have to talk to anyone or look at anyone."

Eventually, Kelly was the one being looked at, especially by the physical education teachers in his junior high school, who marveled at his quick progress. "It was all I did from the time of my last class of the day to right before I had to be home for dinner," Kelly said. "Then I started coming in in the morning. That's when my mom and dad started to get a little worried."

Their worry took them to Kelly's phys ed teacher, who calmed them by promising to structure an exercise program for the 13-year-old. It was then that Kelly was also introduced to scholastic football. Kelly went on to star in junior high, high school, and at the University of Minnesota. "I miss the team aspect of football," he said. "I could have been a Dallas Cowboy, but I'd rather be AWA World champion."

He has begun his travels toward that title, interestingly enough, in matches against both fan favorites and rulebreakers. "I want to wrestle everyone," Kelly said. "When you're a champion, you have to wrestle men with a lot of different styles. I want to get that kind of experience under my belt now. Because one day I plan to be champion." □

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Q&A

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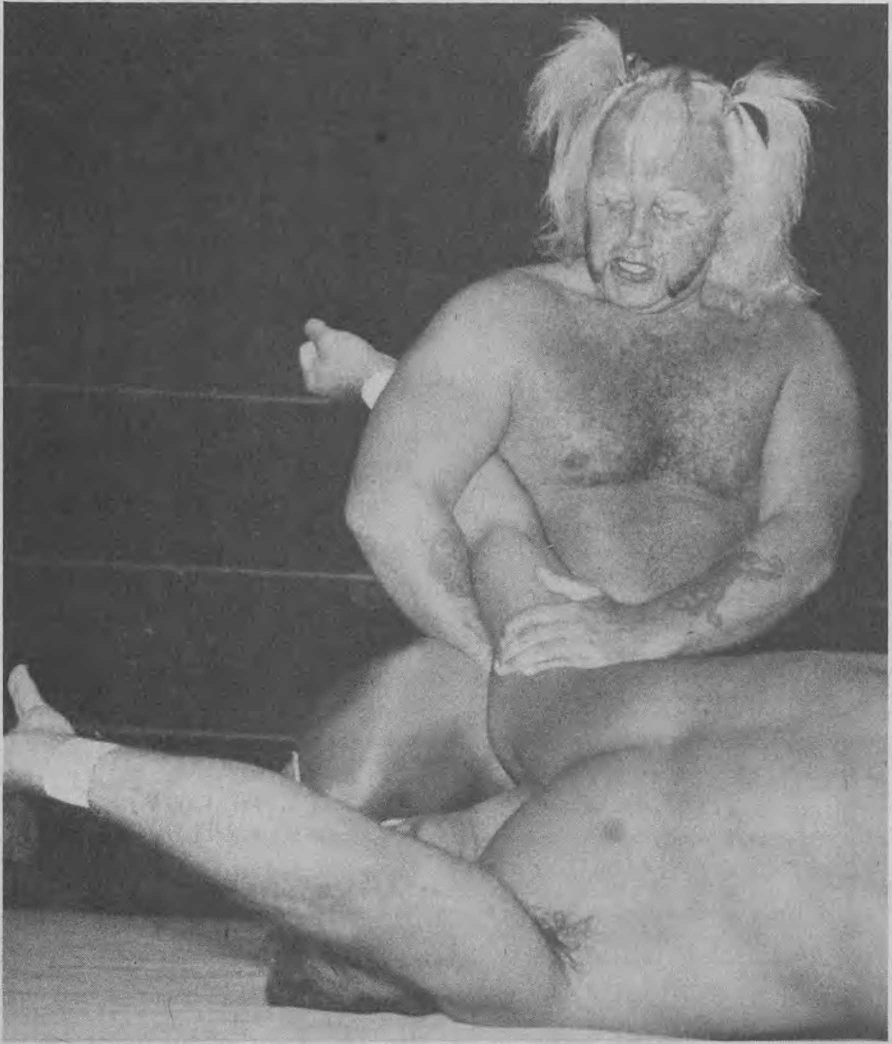


Q: Mr. Street, do you think the Mid-Atlantic fans are ready to experience "The Exotic One"?

A: I think they're just begging for something to relieve their boredom. My Lord, when Ric Flair is the most colorful man they have around here, you know that these people must be just dying for someone to give them a little spiff!

Q: Spiff?

A: You know, chap, spiff, as in being spiffy.

Q: Is that what you are? Spiffy?

A: Well, actually I go far beyond being just spiffy. I am, after all, The Exotic One, feathers and all.

Q: Wahoo McDaniel wears feathers.

A: And quite terribly, I might add. Sakes alive, I understand the tradition of the native Americans, but what they do with those beautiful feathers is just . . . well, it's a crime.

Q: Uh-huh. Let's go on to something else. The men you wrestle look across the ring at a glittered-up, painted, feathered opponent. Do you think they take your skills any less seriously because of the way you look?

A: Well, first of all, I never enter the ring first. I always make the most grand of entrances. But I can understand your point that

EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET

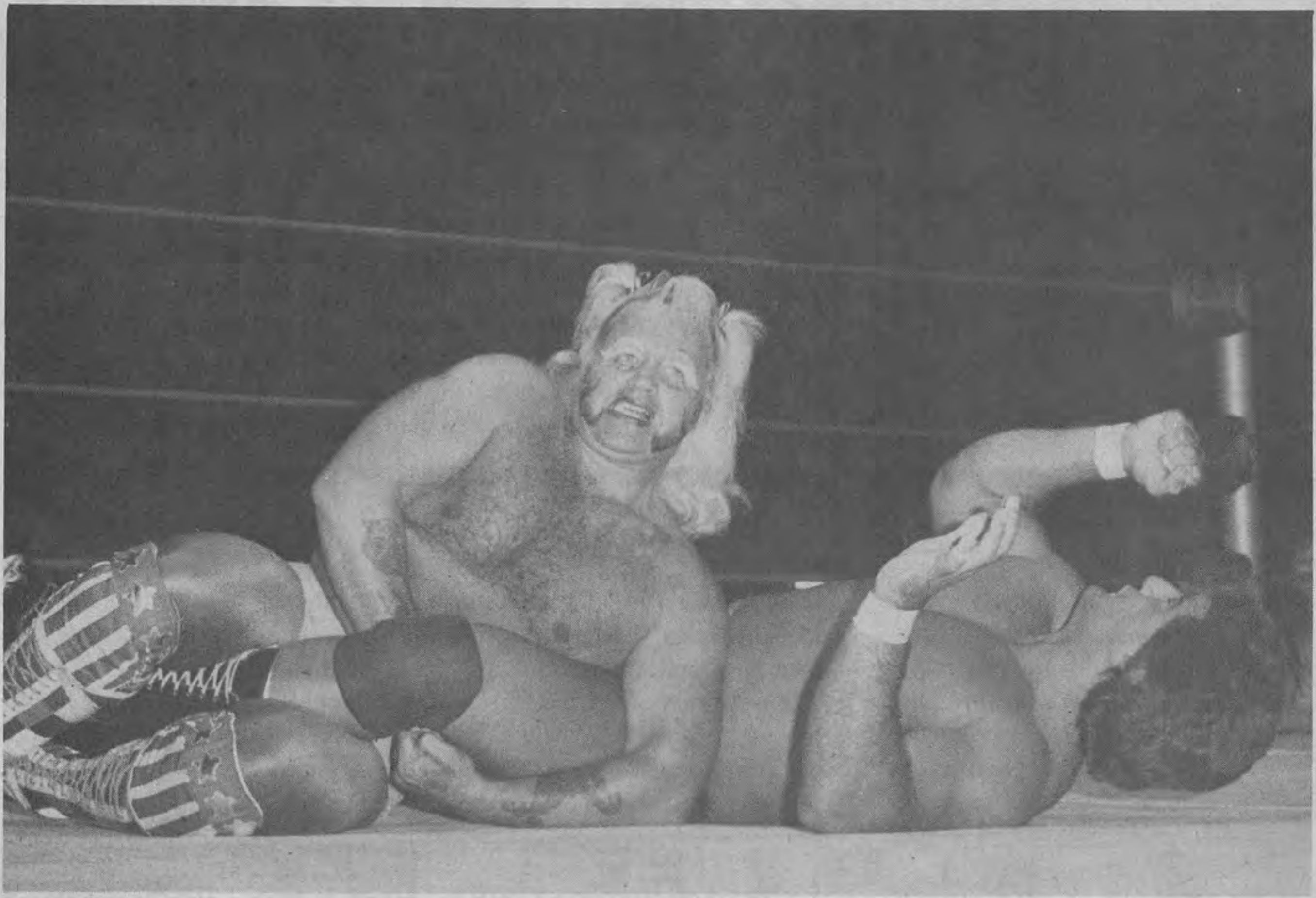
Royal blue and gold glitter, a feather boa, lip gloss, eye shadow, and a fur-collared gold lame' robe. Belongings of a Las Vegas showgirl? No, this is Adrian Street's wrestling gear. Street's penchant for flashy costumes and outlandish makeup may seem bizarre to some, but he says he wouldn't feel comfortable in the ring without them. Don't let his exotic tastes fool you. Street, the former British commonwealth champion, former U.S. junior heavyweight titlist, former Americas champion, and former Southwest heavyweight champion, is an expert practitioner of scientific wrestling maneuvers. He blends the European and American styles with his own flair to create an inimitable ring style. Assistant Editor Joseph Bua recently spoke to Street about his new campaign in the Mid-Atlantic region.

some men may underestimate my talents because of what they think are effeminate grooming habits. They seem to proudly display their lack of intelligence, don't they. Even after watching me wrestle, most of these men refuse to credit me for the talents I possess. It's their loss and my gain.

Q: The last time you were the subject of "Q & A," when you were wrestling in Florida, you said that you weren't interested in any of the title belts in that area because they weren't . . . aesthetically pleasing. Do either the U.S. or Mid-Atlantic heavyweight title belts meet your standards?

A: **The Mid-Atlantic championship belt is quite garish, but the title itself carries with it a great deal of recognition. I would let my ensemble suffer a bit and wear that championship belt. The United States title belt? Well, it doesn't hold a candle to the U.S. junior heavyweight title belt that I held just recently in Texas, but it is pleasing to the**

Valet Miss Linda readies Street in the dressing room before a match (above). Some might laugh at Street's exotic clothing and lifestyle, but inside the ring he's a dangerous competitor, as Scott McGhee (opposite page) and Bill Dundee (top right) are well aware.



Street, the master technician, applies a leglock on McGhee (above). Street, the brawler, bloodies Dusty Rhodes' face (below). Street, the winner, pildrives Dundee (opposite page).

eye. The title belt I really adore is that NWA World heavyweight championship belt. It's just the best. You see, Ric Flair and I have basically the same coloring, and I think it really sets off his eyes. I could design entire outfits around it. It would be just wonderful.

Q: But what about the possibility of capturing these belts? The Mid-Atlantic champion is Angelo Mosca Jr., Rick Steamboat is the U.S. champ, and the NWA World champion in Ric Flair. Do you have any strategies planned for these men? Do you plan to stay in the area long enough to earn the title shots?

A: Earn? Don't you think my body of work over the course of my career has been enough to earn me a shot at the Mid-Atlantic championship? I've wrestled thoughout the world. I've won championships and tournaments on six of seven continents. I wouldn't go near Antarctica. Tell me after I've wrestled in London, Paris, Munich, and Tokyo that I have to qualify to wrestle for the Mid-Atlantic title. I don't believe it.

Q: Where would you suggest the Mid-Atlantic ratings committee rank you?

A: Number one, of course. What other position would be proper?

Q: Most ratings committees request that you prove your worth by defeating ranked wrestlers.

A: Well, it's pretty laughable, if you really think about it. Angelo Mosca Jr.? Mark Youngblood? Rufus R. Jones? Please, I can't believe these men are even ranked. I guess if it's going to be that easy, if all I'm going to have to do is beat Mark Youngblood, then I guess I'll trudge my way up through the ratings. It should take me all of 30 seconds or so.

Q: One last question. When you move into a new part of the country, the fans seem to immediately take a disliking to you. Yet, you're not the classic rulebreaking wrestler. In fact, you rarely disregard the rulebook. Can you explain why the fans dislike you?

A: Jealousy, pure and simple. They are jealous of my position, jealous of my style, and jealous of my talent. I fell sorry for them. I really do. Well, the Mid-Atlantic fans will have to put up with it. I'll be the envy of millions, and I love it. □

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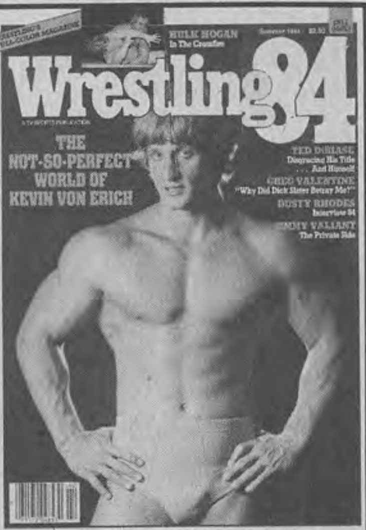

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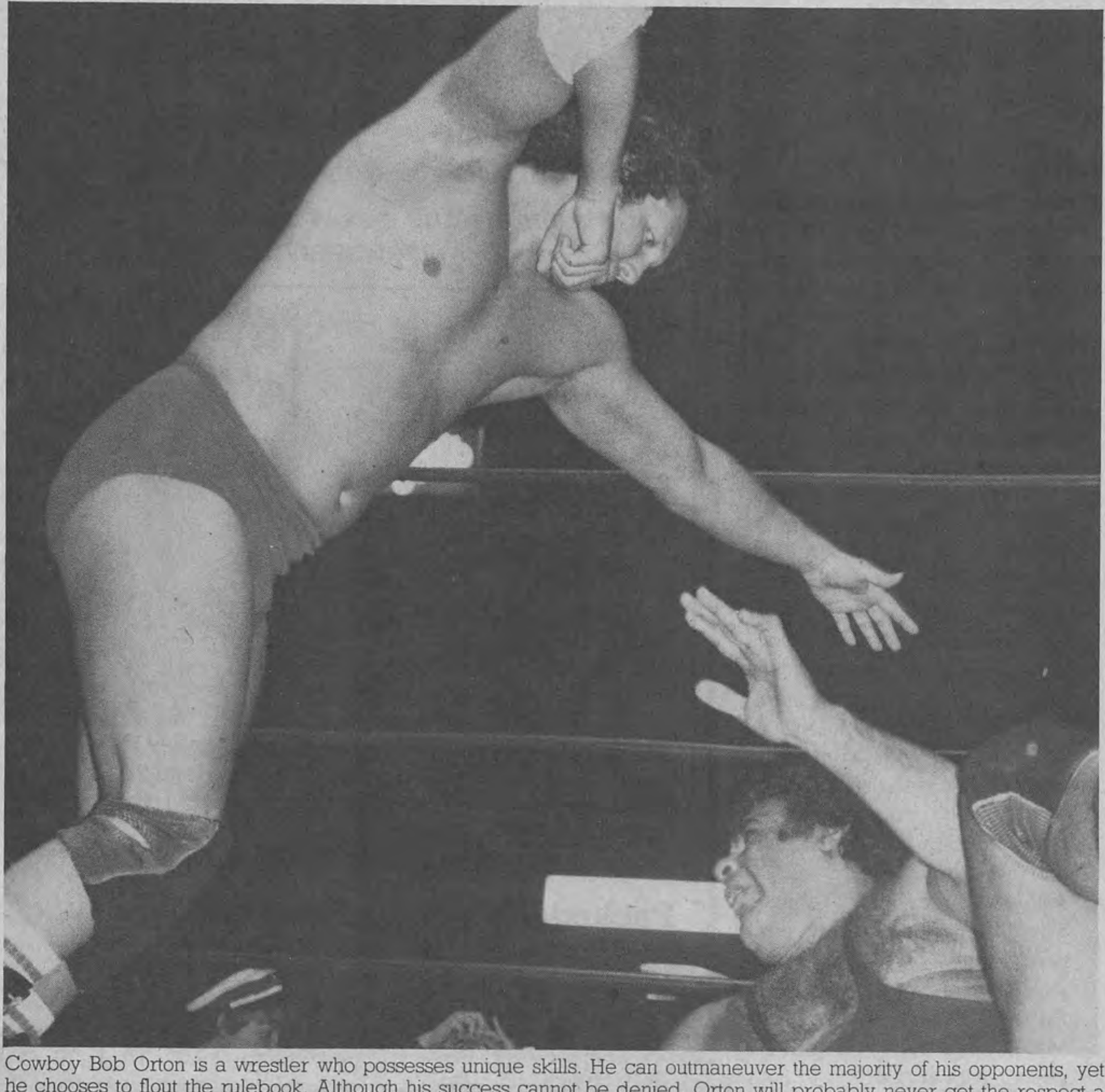
THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES

COWBOY BOB ORTON

Each month THE WRESTLER'S panel of experts will offer their candid opinions of one of wrestling's stars. Whether an up-and-coming youngster or an established superstar in his own right, our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal



Cowboy Bob Orton is a wrestler who possesses unique skills. He can outmaneuver the majority of his opponents, yet he chooses to flout the rulebook. Although his success cannot be denied, Orton will probably never get the respect a man of his abilities deserves until he changes his attitude.

BRUNO SAMMARTINO

"I knew his dad. I wrestled Bob Orton Sr. many times in the first couple of years of my career, and the man was tough. I'm sure his son is just as tough. I've talked to Bob Backlund, who has wrestled Orton a few times, and he says that those matches were some of his most difficult WWF title defenses. What I saw in those matches is that Orton will do anything to win a match. He's doggone ruthless."

Bruno Sammartino is known as wrestling's "Living Legend." He is the most-popular wrestler to ever hold the WWF title.

VERNE GAGNE

"Well, I never advocated rulebreaking tactics, and almost all of Orton's attack consists of illegal tactics. That's a shame, because he has an incredible knowledge of scientific maneuvers, and he has quite an extensive amateur background. It was the same thing with his father. Orton wins matches, but how could he have any pride in his accomplishments if they're all achieved by breaking the rules?"

Verne Gagne held the AWA title a record 11 times. He was named "Best Scientific Wrestler" of the last 25 years.

GENE KINISKI

"Every month I read the other five responses on this page and I think to myself, 'These guys are so predictable.' Gagne and Thesz will disapprove of Orton's tactics, and Bruno and Graham will admit that Orton's a winner, even though he breaks the rules. The one that kills me is Rogers. He built his whole career on illegal tactics, and he tries to come off like a saint. As far as Orton goes, he's a good, smart, successful kid."

Gene Kiniski is a rugged Canadian who was NWA World champion in the late 1960s.

BUDDY ROGERS

"I've been watching this guy for a long time—since he was a little kid, when I was teaming with his father. There's absolutely no excuse for the stunts he pulls when he's in the ring. Even his best move, the superplex, is illegal. The move should be outlawed, because both men are technically outside the ring when the maneuver is initiated."

Buddy Rogers is the only man to hold both the NWA World title and the WWF title.

LOU THESZ

"I refereed one of Orton's matches in Japan not too long ago. The one thing that stuck in my mind about him was that whenever he was put down by his opponent, he kept picking himself up off the canvas and throwing himself back at the guy. Now, you could say he's either a hard worker or extremely reckless. I'd say he's a little of both. You have to be a little reckless in the ring. You've got to take chances."

Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-round wrestler in history.

EDDIE GRAHAM

"It's tough for me to be objective about an Orton. As you know, his father and I were very close for a long time. Mike and Bobby Jr. went to school together. That was a long time ago. Orton and I have had our problems. His ideas about wrestling changed, and I guess mine did, too. There's been a lot of bad blood between us since. Bobby is just like his father, though. He's tough, good, and plenty stubborn."

Eddie Graham is a former co-holder of the World tag team title, and was a top contender for the NWA World title for more than 20 years.

The Freebirds Are Cheered For A Night!

The Freebirds can say what they like about the fans. They can say how unimportant they are and how their boos don't faze them in the least. But when The Freebirds were cheered in their match against Devastation Inc., even they couldn't deny that the fans helped them win

WILL THEIR WAR AGAINST DEVASTATION INC. CHANGE THEIR LIVES?

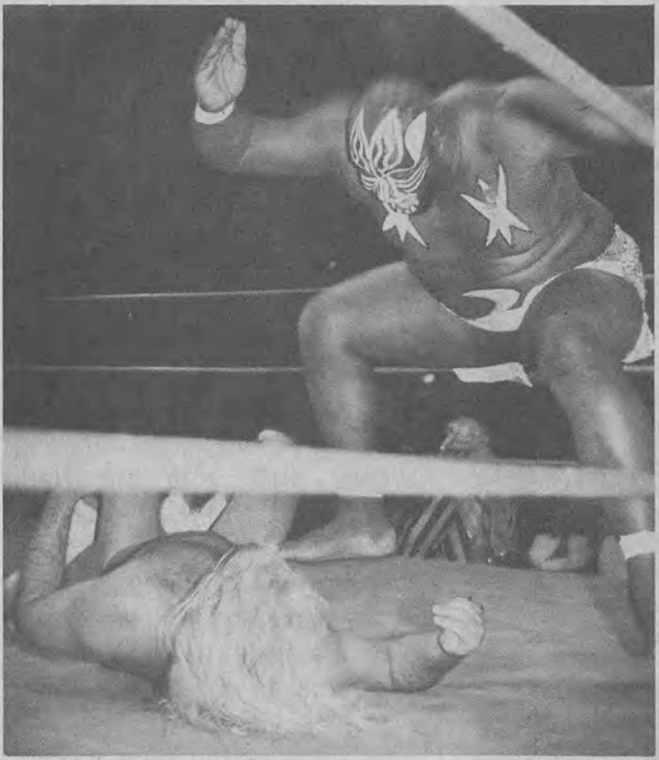
Michael Hayes and Terry Gordy are stunned by the crowd's favorable reaction toward them.

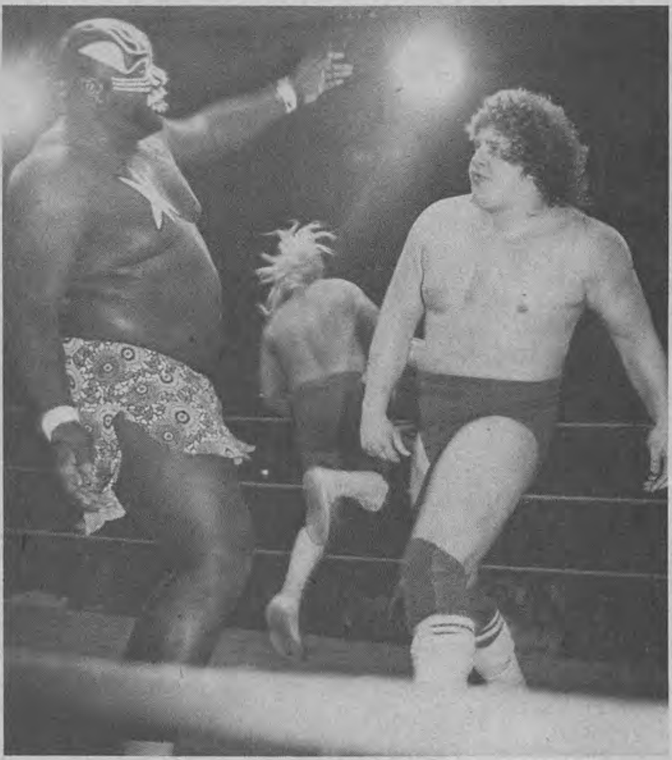
THEY STOOD IN their corner and looked at each other in confusion. Michael Hayes blushed. Terry Gordy thought about smiling but he couldn't figure out a reason why. Here they were, The Freebirds, the most hated tag team in Texas, being cheered. No wonder they didn't understand what was happening.

Across the ring, their opponents couldn't keep from laughing. Devastation Inc.—Missing Link and Kamala—managed by Skandor Akbar, watched the discomfort of The Freebirds and enjoyed every minute of it. After all, they had been booed. That's the way rulebreakers are supposed to be greeted. They would take it as an insult if the fans ever cheered them.

Hayes turned to Gordy and asked, "What do you do when they cheer?" Gordy shrugged, explaining, "Even when I was a fan favorite, I was never very good at it." So the two men stood in their corner of the ring, looking lost as the fans cheered.

This wasn't what The Freebirds intended at all. All they wanted





was revenge against Kamala. According to The Freebirds, Kamala had joined their team one evening and promptly betrayed them. Whenever one of The Freebirds reached out to be tagged, Kamala ignored them. That was a long night for The Freebirds. They wanted to give Kamala a night equally as rough.

In the meantime, Kamala joined forces with Akbar and Missing Link. To this day, Akbar contends Kamala never betrayed The Freebirds. "They never gave him any instruction!" Akbar will shout to anyone who'll listen. "He never understood what he had to do. He had never been involved in tag team match, so he didn't know what he was supposed to do when The Freebirds waved their arms. Kamala thought they were just fanning themselves. We never wanted a war against The Freebirds. But we're not running away from one if that's what they want."

War was precisely what The Freebirds wanted. They made that clear enough in interviews and by aggressively pursuing a contract to wrestle Devastation Inc. As only Michael Hayes can, he abused

Photos by Buddy Myers

Encouraged by the fans, Hayes will be able to escape Kamala's attack (above left) and tag Gordy into the action (above right). Kamala fires a chop into Hayes' armpit (below).

Kamala and Missing Link combine their efforts against Hayes (top). But soon, to the delight of the fans, The Freebirds reverse the momentum of the match with Hayes taking on Missing Link, and Gordy going one-one-one with Kamala (above).

his future opponents with insults and threats. He wanted to make sure Devastation Inc. knew they were going to confront enemies.

No one was sure how the fans would respond to this battle. Many believed the crowd would simply root for both teams to be battered senseless. Only a few correctly predicted the reaction.

One veteran observer explained, "The Freebirds have the charm of bad boys enjoying themselves too much. They look like they're getting away with something wonderful. The fans may hate them, but it's not a really ugly hate, the kind they reserve for someone like Kamala or Missing Link. Though crowds may boo The Freebirds, I think they'll welcome a chance to cheer the guys, especially if the opponents are Devastation Inc. Now that's a team the fans would hate under any circumstances."

Before the match, Hayes was asked how he'd feel about being cheered. By the expression on Michael's face, it was clear he'd never thought about it. Then he laughed, concluding, "Nobody cheers The Freebirds. We're what wrestling outlaws are all about." So neither he nor Gordy were ready for the fans' cheering. They looked at each other and finally decided that they'd try to ignore the strange phenomenon. After all, it shouldn't affect their wrestling.

That's where The Freebirds were wrong, at least in the opinion of many observers. The match was an ugly exhibition of wrestling savagery right from the start. Missing Link and Kamala used every trick in the book, the book written on how to permanently injure an opponent. The Freebirds are brawlers with a streak of cruelty, but they're not evil in the way Devastation Inc. can be.

That's where the fans helped. Whenever Hayes or Gordy were in real trouble, the fans started cheering. It seemed to give the pair that extra strength needed to escape uninjured. This happened time and time again. The Freebirds became conscious of it. Then they began to enjoy it. The more the crowd cheered, the better they wrestled. Hayes and Gordy began to behave like kids discovering that instead of being punished they'd been sent to an amusement park.

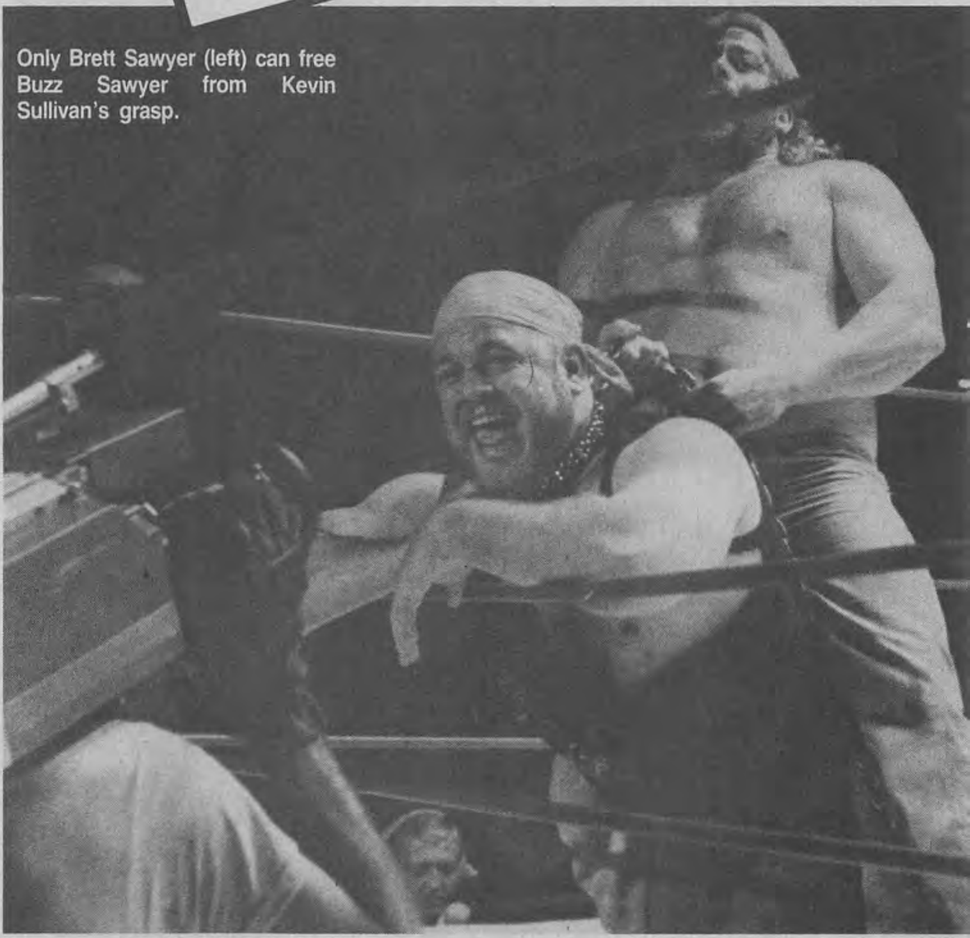
As an act of desperation, Devastation Inc. started on a series of maneuvers guaranteed to get them disqualified. The referee obliged and awarded the match to The Freebirds. The winners stood in the middle of the ring, happily accepting their cheers.

Does this mean The Freebirds intend to become fan favorites? Reporters asked the pair after the match. For the first time in living memory, Hayes didn't know what to say. Finally, Gordy said, "We're our own men!" Then he looked at Hayes with a questioning expression and asked, "That's right, isn't it?"

Hayes, just as confused, shrugged. □

Florida Fans Beg For Brett Sawyer's Help:

"ONLY YOU CAN SAVE YOUR BROTHER BUZZ FROM KEVIN SULLIVAN!"



Only Brett Sawyer (left) can free Buzz Sawyer from Kevin Sullivan's grasp.

THERE'S A FEELING in the air in Florida. You can sense it in Tampa's University of South Florida Sun Dome, in the Miami Beach Convention Hall, or in the Eddie Graham Sports Complex in Orlando.

It's the feeling brought on by a noticeable mood shift among the fans in the arena when Buzz Sawyer enters the ring, usually led along the way on a steel leash by Kevin Sullivan.

Fans begin looking at each other, with helplessness in their eyes.

They recall a tearful reunion of two brothers, broadcast nationwide on SuperStation WTBS' *World*

Under the evil influence of satanist Kevin Sullivan, Buzz Sawyer has degenerated from a Georgia fan favorite to one of the most hated men in the Florida area. As Sawyer's style grows more vicious and aggressive, fans in the Sunshine State are calling for help from Buzz's brother, Brett Sawyer

Championship Wrestling. Brett and Buzz Sawyer, together again. They formed a tag team and captured the National heavyweight tag team title. They were happy. It was beautiful.

Now the fans have to watch Buzz being ordered about the ring like a dog. Kevin Sullivan issues the orders; Buzz obeys. The fans sit and stare. Stunned. Wondering. Helpless.

And then the inevitable fan reaction.

***

"I've been a fan of Buzz Sawyer's since 1980 when he wrestled here as a fan favorite, and I'm shocked to see the change that has come over him. But I guess it's to be expected. Anyone who gets mixed up with Kevin Sullivan is looking to have his wrestling career destroyed."

Buzz Sawyer, wrestling as viciously as he ever has, rips at the hair of Mike Graham (above). Buzz had briefly turned his life around while in Georgia, teaming with brother Brett against such men as The Road Warriors (right). He changed his style for the sake of his relationship with his brother, Brett, who again seems to be his only hope.

The above paragraph is excerpted from a letter by Charles Markin of Tampa, Florida. It is only one of nearly 1,000 pieces of mail received at the offices of *The Wrestler* concerning the relationship between Sawyer and Sullivan.

Virtually all of the mail expresses regret that Sullivan and Sawyer have developed a working relationship. Most of the letters go on to suggest that Buzz' brother, Brett, currently wrestling in the Pacific Northwest area, might be able to break the Sullivan-Sawyer connection.

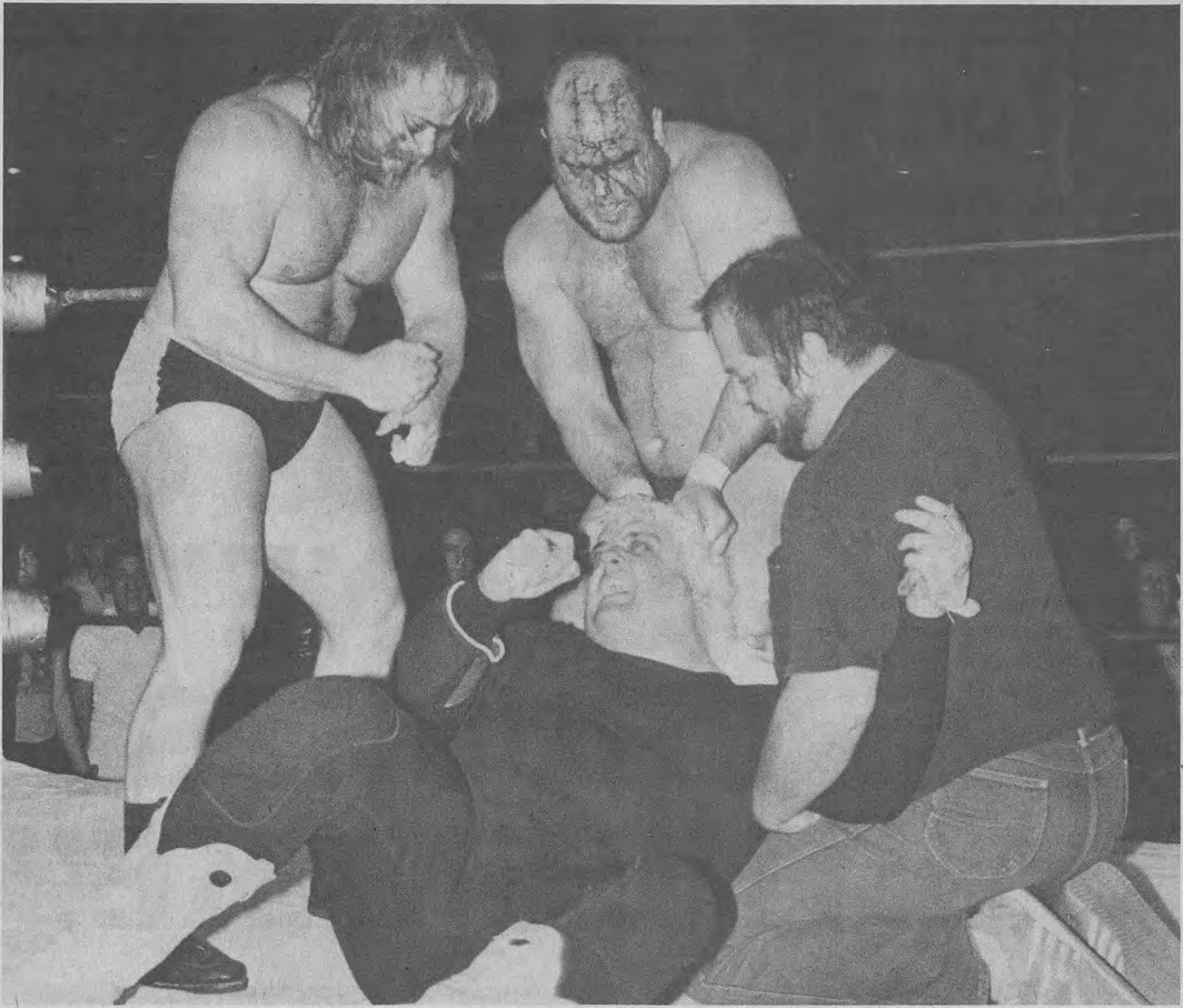
One of those pieces of mail, a letter from Denise Compton of Miami, was written as an open letter to Brett Sawyer:

Dear Brett,

I wonder if you know what's really going on with your brother here in Florida. It's terrible. He's not the man he used to be when you both were together in Georgia. Back then he had found himself, he had brought himself under control. He may have been called "Mad Dog," but he was a pussycat in the hearts of the fans. We all loved him. And when we heard that he was coming back to Florida, we all looked forward to Buzz teaming up with Dusty Rhodes and Barry Windham and Billy Jack and helping to run scum like Kendo Nagasaki and Ron Bass and Kevin Sullivan out of the state.

But then we saw Buzz teaming up with Kevin Sullivan, being led to the ring on a leash. It was disgusting. Everything Buzz had become with your help was washed away.

Brett, you've got to do something. You've got to come to Florida. Only you can save your brother Buzz from Kevin Sullivan. Only



It was hoped when Sawyer came back to Florida, he would be the same type wrestler he was while in the state four years ago. Once Sullivan got to him, that would not be posssible. Sullivan, Sawyer, and Kharma combine their efforts against Dusty Rhodes (above). Graham attempts to subdue Sawyer with a figure-four leglock (below).

you can make him realize what Sullivan is doing to him, and what he's doing to himself. Please, Brett, please. Come now. Florida needs you. The fans need you. And most of all, your brother needs you.

***

"Isn't it wonderful? Isn't he the most vicious specimen of canine ferociousness you've ever seen? The dark side grows ever stronger, and weak-willed fools like Dusty Rhodes are learning my power, the power of Kharma, and the power of a man like Buzz Sawyer."

Kevin Sullivan enjoys talking about his latest ally in the Florida mat wars. His respect for the violent "Mad Dog" tendencies in Sawyer is obvious, and there seems to be no question that Sullivan's

(Continued on page 58)

Exclusive Coverage!

Ronnie Garvin Battles Jake Roberts In Baltimore: "HANDS OF STONE" CRUSHES "THE SNAKE"

RONNIE GARVIN IS not a man who gives up easily. When Jake "The Snake" Roberts defeated Garvin to capture the National television title, Garvin immediately decided that he would not rest until he regained his cherished belt.

At the time Garvin made that statement, he could never have forseen how desperately he would crave that rest in the months to come.

Indeed, Precious Paul Ellering, Roberts' manager, would often dangle in front of Garvin's eyes the possibility of a title match—and then refuse to sign the contract.

"Ellering likes to play games," Garvin said. "He struts out on television like some kind of tuxedoed peacock, brags about his 'Legion of Doom,' and then refuses to back up his words with actions. I wrestled Roberts to a draw twice in a row on television, but it was like pulling teeth to get him to sign another contract so we could get a definite winner."

When that contract was finally signed by Ellering, it was because Garvin had mortgaged his house and borrowed money from several friends to pay what amounted to a ransom. Ellering demanded $34,000 to sign the contract, and Garvin was willing to place his life on the line in order to get the title match.

"I don't back away from anybody, least of all Ellering or one of his goons," Garvin said. "I wanted that match because I knew I could pin Roberts' shoulders to the mat, and I knew I could regain the belt. And I was ready to mortgage my life to get the match. You can bet that if Ellering or Roberts had to do the same thing, they would have turned tail and run like hell!"

Garvin paid Ellering the $34,000 he demanded, and Ellering signed an open contract that eventually led to a title match in Baltimore.

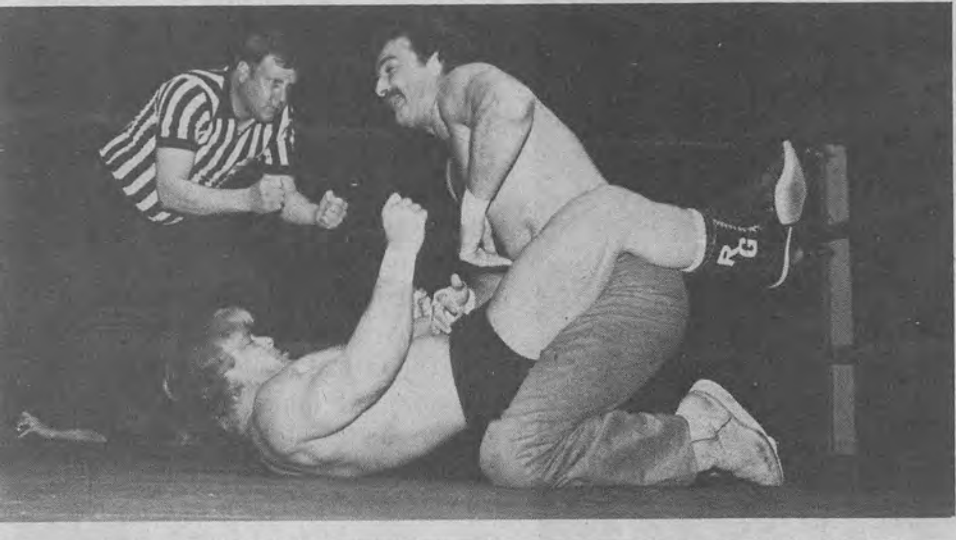
The superstars of Georgia area wrestling were making only their second appearance in the Baltimore Civic Center, but the enthusiasm among the fans would have made an outside observer believe that NWA competition had taken place there for years. And when it came time for Garvin to battle Roberts, the crowd was clearly partial to the man with the "hands of stone."

Roberts slithered into the ring

The feud between Ronnie Garvin and Jake Roberts raged out of control for months. Even Roberts' manager, Precious Paul Ellering, couldn't help his charge, "The Snake," overcome the man with the "Hands of Stone." Neither Roberts nor Garvin could attain a decisive victory . . . until that fateful night in Baltimore

Photos by Craig Peters

Referee David Hebner declares Ronnie Garvin the winner over Jake Roberts (left), but the pictures will show that it was not an easy victory. Roberts drives Garvin's head into a ringside chair (below).



Garvin clamps his legs around Roberts' midriff (above). Ronnie's neckbridge foils "The Snake's" pin attempt (below).

like his namesake, the National television belt firmly around his waist. Ellering accompanied Roberts to ringside, often shouting encouragement and new strategies to his man.

Garvin entered the ring alone, a towel around his neck, and a fierce look of anger and determination in his eyes.

The bell sounded and Garvin and Roberts immediately locked up in a test of strength. Roberts gained the immediate advantage, throwing Garvin to the mat and making an early pin attempt.

Garvin, his back to the canvas, managed to maneuver himself into a position to apply a legscissors on Roberts. Roberts, recuperating from recent injuries to his ribs, cried out in pain as Garvin applied pressure to his opponent's midsection. Ellering, at ringside, looked worried.

For the next 12 minutes or so,

(Continued on page 62)

Unlikely Allies: HOW COMMON HATRED BROUGHT TOGETHER JERRY LAWLER AND J.J. DILLON

Jerry Lawler leans through the ropes to discuss matters with his partner, James J. Dillon.

CURIOUSLY, IT WAS J.J. Dillon who first united Jimmy Hart and Jerry Lawler. Dillon, it should be remembered, forced Lawler to wrestle with the Hart-managed Jos LeDuc. In fact, it was the only way he would give Lawler a match against his Mid-Southern tag team champions, Kareem Muhammad and Elijah Akeem. Ironically, that partnership would eventually lead to Dillon's own affiliation with Lawler, a union that would be formed by a common hatred rather than a mutual trust.

"Lawler can have his title match against Kareem Muhammad and Elijah Akeem," Dillon said in a letter sent from Florida to the Mid-Southern wrestling officials, "contingent on his choice of Jos LeDuc as his tag team partner."

It was obvious to all involved that Dillon had made that stipulation with the hopes that it would lead to an eventual confrontation between Lawler and Hart, with whom Lawler has been feuding for years. Predictably, Lawler's immediate reaction to teaming with a Jimmy Hart-managed wrestler was negative. "No way," he responded. "LeDuc, Jimmy Hart, and me? No way."

Only when Dillon threatened to summon Akeem and Muhammad, The Zambuie Express, back to Florida with the titles did Lawler swallow his pride and sign the contract.

There's only one person in professional wrestling so despised that two men with radically different philosophies would forget their differences to team up against him. On this night in Memphis, Jerry Lawler and J.J. Dillon formed a tag team. Their target was Jimmy Hart, and their mission was a labor of hatred

Hart, who is usually responsible for powdering the eyes of his opponents, sees things from a different perspective (above). After LeDuc gets Dillon to the canvas, Hart comes in and gets his kicks (right).

"I am the number one Jerry Lawler hater in the world," Hart said when he heard about the contractual stipulation, "but even I know injustice when I see it. I've dealt with Dillon in the past, and he always managed to short shrift me. This time, it's gonna be different. I'll forget that I hate Jerry Lawler for the chance to get some shots in on Dillon and his inflated ego. In fact, I think Lawler and LeDuc will make a great tag team."

Ultimately, it was Hart getting his shots in that caused defeat for Lawler and LeDuc. The team was disqualified due to Hart's interference. The rules demanded by Lawler for the rematch would order Hart away from the ring. LeDuc agreed to Hart's banishment reluctantly, but the bad blood that had dripped between the two wrestlers in a number of violent past encounters prevented them from working to peak efficiency. Despite awkward teamwork and an evident sense of insecurity on both wrestlers' parts, they defeated The Zambuie Express and took the belts.

After this victory, Hart and Lawler apparently worked out their differences. A match was signed that teamed the new champs and Hart against manager Dillon, Muhammad, and King Konga. (Akeem had been injured and could not wrestle.)

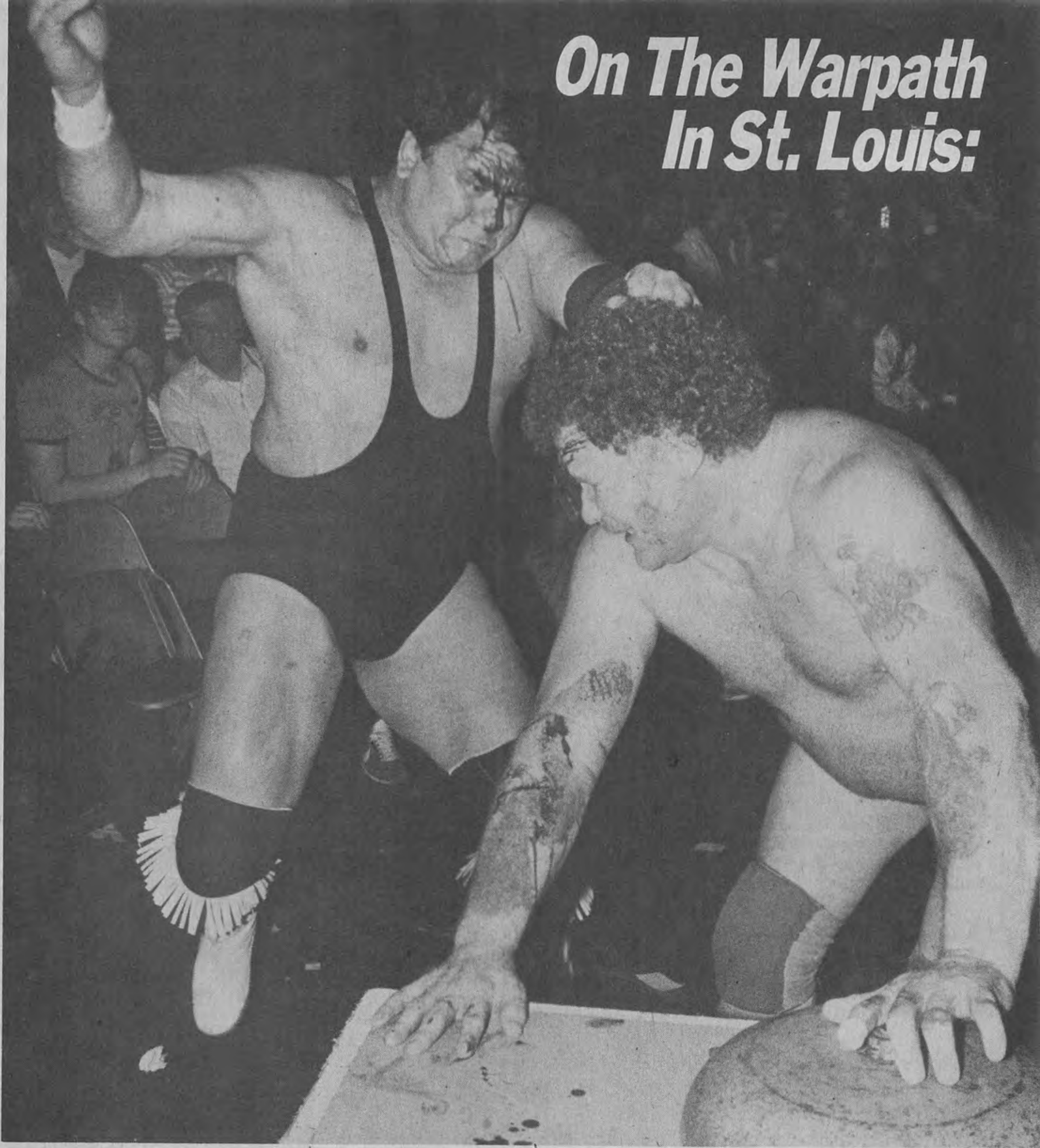
After Lawler's team controlled most of the action-packed encounter, Jerry covered Dillon for what appeared would be a certain three-count. Hart suddenly climbed through the ropes and pulled Lawler off Dillon, claiming he wanted to make the pin. Rather than spoil the opportunity to win the match, Lawler conceded to Hart, who proudly pounced on Dillon, only to be pushed off after a two-count.

A frightened Hart ran to Lawler to make a tag. Lawler hesitated at

(Continued on page 64)

Photos by Sam Lowe & Scott Romer

On The Warpath In St. Louis:



WAHOO McDANIEL GUNS FOR HARLEY RACE'S MISSOURI TITLE

Photos by Scott Romer

Wahoo McDaniel is a gentle, pleasant man. Under ordinary circumstances. On the day of an important match, however, stay away from him. His determination is at such a peak that he becomes a dangerous man. Harley Race knows that, and he also knows how to make it work to his own advantage

AS THE JET circled the airport, a nervous stewardess closely watched one of her passengers. A huge, ferocious looking man sat in his seat and grabbed the arm-rest edges as if he wished to crush them. The stewardess feared her passenger was terrified of flying and ready to have a nervous breakdown. If this powerful man went berserk, there wouldn't be enough people in the plane to get him under control.

If the stewardess had been a sports fan, she would have understood there was no cause for worry, at least as far as she was concerned. The passenger was Wahoo McDaniel, who was only hours away from his next match against Harley Race. He wasn't afraid of flying; it's doubtful at that moment if he could have told you anything about the jet. In his mind's eye, he was imagining the various occurrences that might happen during his upcoming match. His body was filled with tension, but it was the good kind of tension that sharpens the senses and forces the brain to race at its most efficient.

The stewardess was relieved when the jet finally landed and the fearsome passenger was no longer her responsibility. As he left the jet, she found herself staring into his eyes. They were opaque, as if he was seeing something no one else could understand. They were also the most fiery eyes she had ever seen. Though she never knew his identity, she knew this was the most dangerous man she had ever met.

Harley Race wouldn't have given her much of an argument on that. Several months ago, before he knew that Wahoo was determined

Harley Race writhes in agony as he is spread-eagled by Wahoo McDaniel (above). McDaniel secures a headlock on the Missouri champion (below). Race's blood drips onto the ringside table as McDaniel attacks ferociously (opposite page).

McDaniel weakens Race with a headlock inside the ring (above) and then staggers the champion with a right hand outside the ring (right).

to take his Missouri title and disgrace him, Race discussed various opponents. He described McDaniel as "a man with no sense of fear and no sense of fun. Most successful wrestlers love to grapple and love the life. Wahoo doesn't. He's driven to wrestle by some force. It's as if he has to serve some all-powerful master he despises. So he punishes his opponents for what he feels. He really hates us. He doesn't care if he gets hurt, as long as he manages to get some real or moral victory out of the match. When he's at his best, and when he can keep his temper under control, McDaniel is one of the best in wrestling history. When he can't keep his temper under control, he's one of the most dangerous."

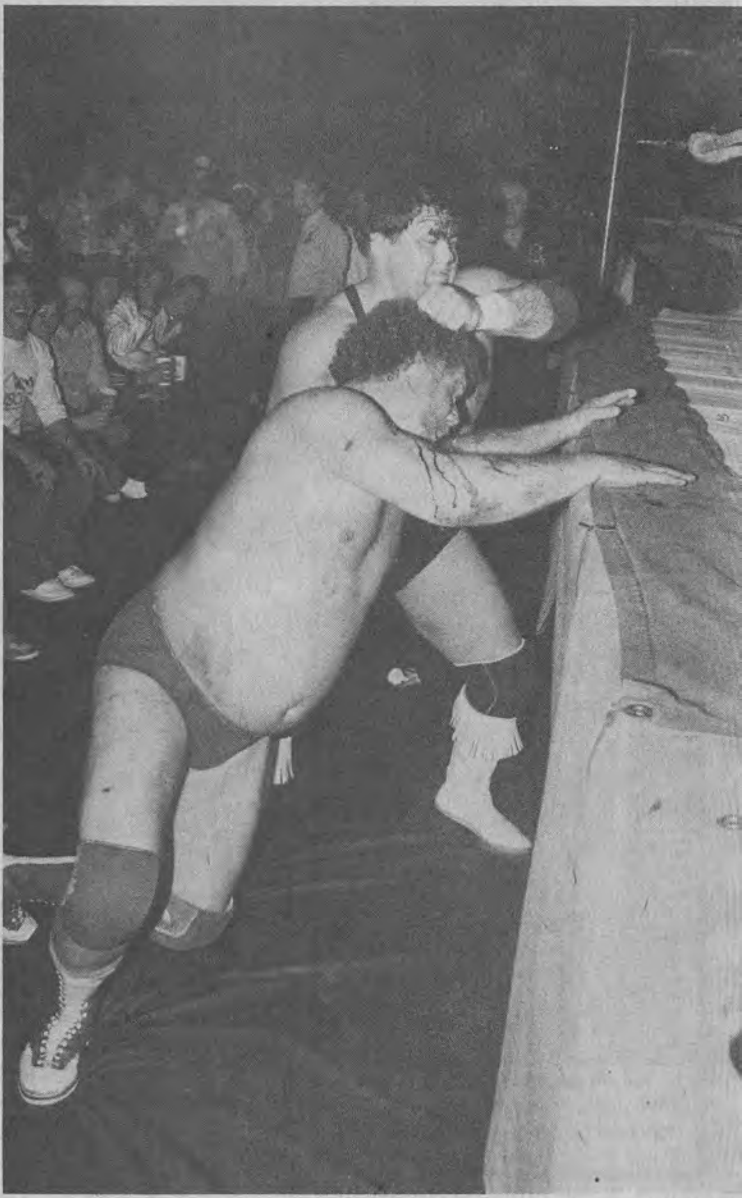
Race then took a deep breath before adding, "When he loses his temper, he can't win. That's why he's never been a world heavyweight champion. He can't control his temper."

It wasn't this interview that made McDaniel swear destruction upon Race. Rather, it was the fact that Harley was once again Missouri State champion Wrestling history has shown that Missouri State champs often become NWA World championship titleholders. McDaniel realized that once again Race was in a position to win the belt, something Wahoo has never done. If McDaniel couldn't be champion, Wahoo was damned if Race would get it still another time.

So Wahoo went on the warpath. Even though he wrestles mainly in the Mid-Atlantic area, he made several forays into the Midwest to attack Race. In conventional and strap matches, the two men went at each other with a ferocity rarely seen. Almost half a century of wrestling experience was on view in these clashes.

Wahoo knew this as he left the airport for his hotel. He would check into his hotel room and try to get some rest. Around 4:30 he would call room service and order a steak, a baked potato, whatever fresh vegetable they were serving, and a quart of milk. Though he'd be hungry, he wouldn't taste any of it. His senses would all be focused on the upcoming battle.

Across town, Harley Race would



be going through a similar regimen with one important difference. Every so often, Race would stare at the Missouri State title belt. He always keeps it in sight during the day before a match. He never wants to be unaware of the prize for which he's battling. The thought of someone trying to take the belt from him keeps Harley angry all day. By the time of the match, he is consumed by a cold fury. When he steps into the ring, his total concentration is on the man who wants to take his title.

There is no sense of coldness about McDaniel's fury. The man rages on the borderline of control, too often slipping over the border and falling victim to his own reckless rage. As McDaniel finished his dinner, he swore to himself that this night he'd be under control. He swears that to himself every night.

So he left his hotel, made his way to arena and quickly dressed. When they summoned him to go into the ring, he was ready. As he climbed through the ropes, he saw Race standing in the opposite corner. They exchanged stares. Both men were ready.

The bell rang. The wily veterans efficiently tore into each other. Race's strategy quickly became evident. His maneuvers weren't intended to defeat McDaniel as much as infuriate him. Harley knew he'd win the match if McDaniel lost his temper.

And that's what happened. One could see the war within Wahoo raging. After the action strayed from the ring, Wahoo made a terrible mistake. He rolled the champion back inside the ring, lost track of the referee's count, and was disqualified. Race was still champion.

Once again, Wahoo swore he'd come back another time and take Race's title. McDaniel has been around a long time. One thing he's learned is that sooner or later, if you work hard enough for it, you get what you want. His real enemy wasn't Race as much as it was himself. □

McDaniel was miraculously able to survive Race's devastating falling headbutt (above left), but he makes the mistake of throwing the champion back into the ring and being counted out himself (above right).

Beyond the Squared Circle

Ron Bass is apparently dissatisfied with his position in the ratings of our sister publication *Pro Wrestling Illustrated.*

Is that an American flag in Ivan Koloff's locker? Koloff was made an honorary American citizen by Dick Slater and Cowboy Bob Orton.

The Super Intelligent Destroyer poses with one of his most loyal fans, Francois Valois, daughter of promoter Frank Valois.

Ernie Ladd boosts the spirits (and every other part) of a fan before his match at the Baltimore Civic Center.

This young man had quite a time trying to find appropriate polish for Buddy Landell's shoes. It was all worth it, though. Landell gave him his biggest tip of the day.

Tony Charles poses with his son Anthony, a talented rookie in the Tennessee and Florida areas.

Carlos Colon appreciates good music, and one of his favorites is Julio Iglesias.

Ole Anderson samples the fans' opinion of NWA wrestling in Baltimore. The responses were favorable.

Roger Kent (left) and AWA official Al Derusha do an AWA broadcast in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Promoter Jim Crockett confers with Hugo Savinovitch, the host of the NWA wrestling show seen on New York's WXTV, Channel 41.

Jimmy Hart does not try to hide his feelings about the man the readers of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* selected as Manager of the Year the last two years.

OFFI
WRESTLIN

Ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. These ratings are compiled by the editors and are universally recognized as official.

Ric Flair

Andre the Giant

Dusty Rhodes

TOP10

1—RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

2—ANDRE THE GIANT
497, Grenoble, France

3—JUMBO TSURUTA
240, Tokyo, Japan

4—HULK HOGAN
320, Venice Beach, CA

5—HARLEY RACE
253, Kansas City, MO

6—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX

7—KERRY VON ERICH
251, Denton, TX

8—CARLOS COLON
238, Santa Isabel, Puerto Rico

9—RICK STEAMBOAT
238, Honolulu, HI

10—DINO BRAVO
248, Montreal, Quebec

TAG TEAMS

1—JACK & JERRY BRISCO
NWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 455 pounds

2—KEN PATERA & CRUSHER BLACKWELL
AWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 730 pounds

3—THE ROAD WARRIORS
National tag team champions
Combined weight: 567 pounds

4—THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS
Mid-South tag team champions
Combined weight: 483 pounds

5—DICK MURDOCH & ADRIAN ADONIS
WWF tag team champions
Combined weight: 521 pounds

6—SUPER DESTROYERS I & II
World Class American tag team champions
Combined weight: 542 pounds

7—BARRY WINDHAM & MIKE ROTONDO
U.S. tag team champions
Combined weight: 475 pounds

8—TOMMY RICH & EDDIE GILBERT
Mid-Southern tag team champions
Combined weight: 460 pounds

9—KING TONGA & EL GRAN APOLLO
World Wrestling Council tag team champions
Combined weight: 482 pounds

10—PIERRE LeFEBVRE & FRENCHY MARTIN
Canadian International tag team champions
Combined weight: 481 pounds

NWA and AWA ratings are compiled with the assistance of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters. "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices.

MOST POPULAR

1—JIMMY VALIANT
251, New York, NY

2—ANDRE THE GIANT
497, Grenoble, France

3—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX

4—HULK HOGAN
320, Venice Beach, CA

5—JUNKYARD DOG
260, New Orleans, LA

6—KERRY VON ERICH
251, Denton, TX

7—JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN

8—SGT. SLAUGHTER
310, Parris Island, SC

9—RICK STEAMBOAT
238, Honolulu, HI

10—BLACKJACK MULLIGAN
310, Sweetwater, TX

MOST HATED

1—MR. WRESTLING II
232, Atlanta, GA

2—KENDO NAGASAKI
248, Singapore

3—THE SPOILER
266, parts unknown

4—HACKSAW BUTCH REED
249, Kansas City, MO

5—THE IRON SHEIK
262, Teheran, Iran

6—KRUSHER KHRUSHCHEV
303, Thief River Falls, MN

7—IVAN KOLOFF
249, Moscow, Russia

8—DICK SLATER
235, Tampa, FL

9—JIM GARVIN
235, Tampa, FL

10—KEN PATERA
256, Portland, OR

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

1—RICK STEAMBOAT
238, Honolulu, HI

2—THE SPOILER
266, parts unknown

3—HARLEY RACE
253, Kansas City, MO

4—RON BASS
285, Pampa, TX

5—ANGELO MOSCA JR.
234, Caledou, Ontario

6—CARLOS COLON
238, Santa Isabel, Puerto Rico

7—BILLY JACK
245, Portland, OR

8—CHRIS ADAMS
225, Stratford on Avon, England

9—KERRY VON ERICH
251, Denton, TX

10—STAN HANSEN
243, Borger, TX

AWA

World Champion:
JUMBO TSURUTA
240, Tokyo, Japan

1—RICK MARTEL
236, Quebec City, Quebec

2—BLACKJACK MULLIGAN
310, Sweetwater, TX

3—NICK BOCKWINKEL
245, Beverly Hills, CA

4—BLACKJACK LANZA
260, Laredo, TX

5—JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN

6—LARRY ZBYSZKO
240, Pittsburgh, PA

7—BRAD RHEINGANS
248, Appleton, MN

8—GREG GAGNE
220, Robinsdale, MN

9—MR. SAITO
247, Osaka, Japan

10—MAD DOG VACHON
225, Algeria

For period ended April 25, 1984

CIAL
G RATINGS

Below are the ratings for the top regional wrestling areas of the country. These ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters.

WWF

Champion:
HULK HOGAN
320, Venice Beach, CA

1—GREG VALENTINE
243, Seattle, WA

2—TITO SANTANA
245, Mission, TX

3—BOB BACKLUND
242, Princeton, MN

4—SGT. SLAUGHTER
310, Parris Island, SC

5—DAVID SHULTZ
265, Memphis, TN

6—PAUL ORNDORFF
253, Brandon, FL

7—THE IRON SHEIK
262, Teheran, Iran

8—JIMMY SNUKA
250, Fiji Islands

9—RODDY PIPER
231, Scotland

10—COWBOY BOB ORTON
245, Kansas City, KS

GEORGIA

1—THE SPOILER
266, parts unknown

2—RONNIE GARVIN
231, Montreal, Quebec

3—JAKE ROBERTS
243, Baton Rouge, LA

4—KING KONG BUNDY
420, Atlantic City, NJ

5—BRAD ARMSTRONG
223, Pensacola, FL

6—JACK BRISCO
232, Blackwell, OK

7—SWEET BROWN SUGAR
226, Dallas, TX

8—TOMMY ROGERS
222, St. Petersburg, FL

9—TIM HORNER
235, Morristown, TN

10—WAHOO McDANIEL
260, Midland, TX

FLORIDA

1—RON BASS
285, Pampa, TX

2—BILLY JACK
245, Portland, OR

3—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX

4—MIKE ROTONDO
245, Syracuse, NY

5—BARRY WINDHAM
230, Sweetwater, TX

6—KENDO NAGASAKI
248, Singapore

7—KEVIN SULLIVAN
235, Boston, MA

8—BUZZ SAWYER
240, St. Petersburg, FL

9—MIKE DAVIS
232, Atlanta, GA

10—MIKE GRAHAM
232, Tampa, FL

MID-ATLANTIC

1—RICK STEAMBOAT
238, Honolulu, HI

2—ANGELO MOSCA JR.
234, Caledou, Ontario

3—MARK YOUNGBLOOD
230, Amarillo, TX

4—JIMMY VALIANT
251, New York, NY

5—DICK SLATER
235, Tampa, FL

6—TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX

7—IVAN KOLOFF
249, Moscow, Russia

8—WAHOO McDANIEL
260, Midland, TX

9—ERNIE LADD
354, Houston, TX

10—JUNKYARD DOG
260, New Orleans, LA

WORLD CLASS

1—CHRIS ADAMS
225, Stratford on Avon, England

2—JIM GARVIN
235, Tampa, FL

3—KERRY VON ERICH
251, Denton, TX

4—KEVIN VON ERICH
254, Denton, TX

5—ICEMAN PARSONS
242, St. Louis, MO

6—MIKE VON ERICH
220, Denton, TX

7—JOHNNY MANTELL
230, Decatur, TX

8—HACKSAW BUTCH REED
249, Kansas City, MO

9—KAMALA
360, Uganda

10—MISSING LINK
273, parts unknown

MID-SOUTH

1—MR. WRESTLING II
232, Atlanta, GA

2—MAGNUM T.A.
245, Chesapeake, VA

3—TERRY TAYLOR
219, Vero Beach, FL

4—NIKOLAI VOLKOFF
345, Siberia, Russia

5—STAGGER LEE
260, parts unknown

6—HACKSAW BUTCH REED
249, Kansas City, MO

7—KRUSHER KHRUSHCHEV
303, Thief River Falls, MN

8—LANNY POFFO
228, Sarasota, FL

9—KAMALA
360, Uganda

10—JOE SAVOLDI
238, Parsippany, NJ

MID-SOUTHERN

1—AUSTIN IDOL
240, Las Vegas, NV

2—JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN

3—JOS LeDUC
280, Godbout, Quebec

4—RICK RUDE
233, Robinsdale, MN

5—DUTCH MANTEL
224, Oil Trough, TX

6—EDDIE GILBERT
222, Lexington, TN

7—TOMMY RICH
238, Hendersonville, TN

8—RANDY SAVAGE
235, Sarasota, FL

9—STAGGER LEE
217, Union City, TN

10—NORVELL AUSTIN
239, Pensacola, FL

NORTHWEST

1—RIP OLIVER
245, Tampa, FL

2—MATT BORNE
240, Milwaukie, OR

3—BRETT SAWYER
242, St. Petersburg, FL

4—PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE
245, Minneapolis, MN

5—THE ASSASSIN
240, parts unknown

6—CURT HENNIG
235, Minneapolis, MN

7—ED WISKOWSKI
255, San Francisco, CA

8—JULES STRONGBOW
247, Pawhuska, OK

9—TOM PRITCHARD
220, Houston, TX

10—MIKE MILLER
260, Memphis, TN

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Importance of a title: Rick Steamboat defeated Dick Slater for the U.S. heavyweight title just a few days before we went to press with this magazine. If you check the ratings this month, you'll notice that Steamboat is ranked in four categories. (Last month he wasn't rated in any of our 14 rankings.)

Indeed, this month's ratings can be taken as an interesting case study about how a major championship can affect several sets of ratings. It also graphically demonstrates the overall importance of the U.S. heavyweight title.

Rick Steamboat

The following four paragraphs point out Steamboat's rankings this month, and the reasons for those rankings:

Mid-Atlantic: Steamboat reenters the Mid-Atlantic ratings at the number one spot. The Mid-Atlantic champion is *always* rated number one in that area. And while Steamboat did not appear in last month's ratings, that was due to his semiretirement and relative inactivity.

NWA: In the past, we have received some complaints about the ratings in the NWA category. Some readers feel that many wrestlers who do not hold titles deserve to be ranked in the NWA top 10. While this may be true, our NWA ratings strive to be more objective. The Missouri State champion, for example, is virtually assurred of receiving a match for the World title. Such is the case as well with the new U.S. heavyweight champion, and Rick Steamboat is ranked number one in the NWA this month immediately behind World champion Ric Flair.

Most Popular: Rick Steamboat has always been the object of a great deal of admiration among wrestling fans around the world, but enthusiasm for and interest in Steamboat's activities increased dramatically when, as the result of several NWA World title matches against Ric Flair, Steamboat's retirement became a semiretirement. As a result, Steamboat reenters the Most Popular ratings this month in the number nine position. As Steamboat defends the U.S. title, we look for him to remain in that category, perhaps even rising several notches, in the months to come.

Top 10: Now that he has returned to a full schedule of active wrestling, Rick Steamboat may be considered for eligibility in the Top 10. By virtue of his U.S. championship title defenses, former champion Dick Slater was rated number eight in the Top 10 last month. This month, Slater is out of the Top 10 and Steamboat is in at the number nine position. And while a wrestler's standing in the Top 10 is determined by a consensus of the editorial board, there are few members of our staff who would disagree with the contention that Steamboat is one of the top 10 grapplers in the world.

Ratings mailbag: Every once in a while, "Ratings Analysis" will present a random sampling of reader comments about our ratings system.

Nick Bockwinkel

Barry Goff, Midvale, UT: "Either Ric Flair or Nick Bockwinkel should be rated the most hated wrestler in the world. Just about every time I see them wrestle they disqualify themselves."

Rick Czaya, North Reading, MA: "I think your Top 10 wrestlers category is perfect, except that I think Kerry Von Erich shouldn't be rated number eight. I think Kerry should be rated number one because I know he can beat Ric Flair."

Kerry Von Erich

Stan Arkin, Louisville, KY: "I don't know why you don't rate Fargo's new Fabulous Ones, Tommy Rich and Eddie Gilbert, higher than number eight. They could definitely beat Barry Windham and Mike Rotondo, the Super Destroyers, and would even give The Road Warriors a run for their money. I think they should be rated at least number five."

Tommy Rich

Melinda Roberts, San Diego: "Just wanted to drop you a line to tell you how much I like your ratings system, particularly 'Ratings Analysis.' Yours are without a doubt the most comprehensive ratings available anywhere in the sport. Thank you for your continued great work."

The address for mail: We always look forward to your comments on our ratings system, and on "Ratings Analysis." Send them to: "Ratings Analysis" c/o *The Wrestler;* Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY 11571. □

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 6)

ticular to your May 1984 issue of *The Wrestler* that examined Tito Santana.

Every one of the experts interviewed in this column had very intelligent comments about Tito except Mr. Gene Kiniski. Mr. Kiniski's comments were totally wrong and uncalled for.

First of all, Tito does not *play* to the fans. He really appreciates and cares about them. As far as Mr. Kiniski's comments about Tito

Tito Santana (armlocking Super Destroyer) did not receive a fair critique from Gene Kiniski in the May 1984 "X-Ray," according to reader Wallie Miller.

being more aggressive in the ring—give me a break! Tito is one of the most aggressive scientific wrestlers that I know of.

And what does this man have against Tito yelling *"Arriba!"* after every match he wins? To Tito, this means another victory in a line of many.

Mr. Kiniski sounds jealous and extremely picky. It seems to me like he couldn't say anything good, so he got real dumb and said things without thinking and stuck his big foot in his mouth. I really resent his remarks. Tito is

(Continued on page 50)

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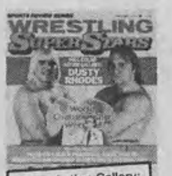

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 48)

one of the greatest wrestlers we have today, and Mr. Kiniski should recognize that fact instead of being so critical.

Arriba, Tito!

WALLIE MILLER
Fairview, PA

TAYLOR VS. VOLKOFF?

I would like to tell you that I was very displeased to see the article in the May 1984 issue of *The Wrestler* about the Junkyard Dog being the only person who can stop Nikolai Volkoff. It's not that I don't like JYD, because I do. It's just that there is someone else who can also stop Nikolai Volkoff, and that's Terry Taylor. Terry recently defeated the Russian in Little Rock, Arkansas, in a Russian death match. I'm one of Terry Taylor's biggest fans, and I would just like everyone to know that Terry can *and has* stopped Nikolai Volkoff, too.

KRISTI COOK
Des Arc, AR

PIPER'S MAGIC

The letter printed in "Your Letters" in the June 1984 issue of *The Wrestler* speaking of Roddy Piper's "sudden change to rule-breaker" confuses me.

What is the writer talking about? There was no "sudden change." Roddy is still the same outspoken, unpredictable person he was in the Mid-Atlantic. The only difference is the company he keeps. His attitude hasn't been altered in the least, like the letter writer said—but this is just typical of the way the average wrestling fan thinks.

If he were managing men like Hulk Hogan or Ivan Putski, Piper would be loved by one and all. Some fans immediately pass judgment on wrestlers because they don't conform to their image

Roddy Piper is unchanged since his days in the Mid-Atlantic, notes reader Cathy Noggle. Cathy doesn't think Roddy should be judged by the company he keeps.

of what a "fan favorite" should be. But Roddy has always thrived on controversy and seems right at home in this role of "rulebreaker," if that's what the people choose to call him.

He's just been a nonconformist all through his career, and hopefully he always will be. That's just part of the special magic and intrigue that is Roddy Piper.

CATHY NOGGLE
Des Plaines, IL

ARMSTRONG ASTONISHMENT

I am astonished and appalled by your treatment of National heavyweight champion Brad Armstrong in the June 1984 issue of *The Wrestler*.

First, you give Brad a "thumbs down" because of an assumption by Ted DiBiase that Mr. R was Tommy Rich all along. Theoretically, Mr. R could have been any number of people. Can you prove it was ever the same man twice? Can you prove that it was ever Tommy Rich, for that matter?

Second, Stu Saks does an interview with Brad and slants the questions purposely to try and deprive Brad of the fan support he has—and deserves—by shedding doubt on his title claim! To be honest, it was Brad Armstrong, not a masked man, who pinned DiBiase in front of a worldwide television audience. Who was more professional: DiBiase, who let his emotions blind him to his opponent's maneuver during the match, or Armstrong, who saw an opportunity and used it to defeat his opponent and win the title?

If you succeed in muddying Brad's title claim and refuse to give him credit for being the fine champion he is, you have only yourselves to blame when his anger overflows. Brad Armstrong is a supremely talented scientific wrestler, and a champion in the truest sense of the word. What kind of man could stand against him if he throws the rulebook away?

Brad Armstrong was completely justified in donning the Mr. R mask to win the National title, writes Dyane M. Kirkland. Dyane feels Brad received improper treatment from *The Wrestler,* and Stu Saks in particular.

DYANE M. KIRKLAND
Hapeville, GA

[Editor's note: Between the time we received Ms. Kirkland's letter and the time this magazine went to press, The Spoiler captured the National heavyweight title from Brad Armstrong.] □

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YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 12)

and that big nose, he doesn't look very precious to me."—Julie Nichols, Los Angeles

A: "My dear Julie Nichols from Los Angeles, the smog that hangs over your wretched city has obviously affected your thought processes, not to mention your sight," Ellering said. "The entire concept of being the Precious One seems to be far beyond your realm of thought, but I will attempt to explain, even though the effort might well be in vain. It is a union of the mind, body, and spirit. There is a oneness of all the senses, a sensory achievement that is not accomplished without a highly developed intellect. Miss Julie Nichols, I have said my piece, and now you may return to doing whatever it is you do, whether it be bagging groceries in the local Alpha-Beta supermarket or answering the phone in a dentist's office on Santa Monica Blvd. Those bells you hear might not always be the phone, dear."

Paul Ellering feels that the fans are too inferior to understand his greatness.

Florida champion Billy Jack often thinks of his Pacific Northwest fans.

Q: "For Billy Jack: This really isn't a question, but I wanted to say for all your fans home in the Pacific Northwest that we're really proud and very happy about your winning the Florida title. You've brought attention to wrestling in this part of the country, and you've shown everyone just what kind of people come from this corner of the nation. We're very happy for you, but we'd still like you to come back real soon. All of your fans miss you."—Brenda Williams, Tacoma, WA

A: "Thank you so much," Billy replied. "I really needed to hear that right now. I miss everyone up there. Winning the Florida State belt was the best thing that ever happened to me. I wish I could come back and defend it in front of you fans in Seattle and Washington, but it wouldn't quite work, would it. I love you all, and I will be back. Please don't forget about me." ☐

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 8)

Dick Murdoch and Adrian Adonis have won the WWF tag team championship from Rocky Johnson and Tony Atlas.

spect the fans at all, and I think they know that well. The fans appreciate me, and I appreciate them. I intend to hold on to this belt for a long time."

Koloff had defeated Mosca Jr. for the title on March 18. That match also took place in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Rick Steamboat is the new U.S. heavyweight champion. He defeated **Dick Slater** for the title on April 21 in Greensboro, North Carolina. The match lasted nearly 40 minutes, and for the most part was surprisingly scientific. The end of Slater's reign came when Steamboat blocked a suplex attempt, pulled Slater down by the shoulders, and pinned him.

"I guess I might as well forget about retirement for a while," Steamboat said with a laugh shortly after his victory. "As long as I have this championship belt around my waist, as long as I have a schedule of title defenses, and as long as the fans keep supporting me the way that they have, I'm back in wrestling to stay!"

A major title change took place in the WWF area recently as the team of **Adrian Adonis** and **Dick Murdoch** defeated **Rocky Johnson** and **Tony Atlas** for the WWF tag team championship. WWF fans are upset at seeing the popular team of Johnson and Atlas dethroned, but they are also confused at the change in the attitude of Murdoch. "Last I heard of Murdoch he was in Atlanta, calling himself Capt. Redneck, and singing the praises of the United States," said Claudia Davison, a wrestling fan from Smithtown, New York. "I don't know what happened to Murdoch, but maybe it was his association with Adonis that turned him around. All I know is that this isn't the same Capt. Redneck I knew and loved a year ago."

Curt Hennig, the son of **Larry Hennig**, is currently wrestling in the AWA area . . . **Buck Zumhofe** is competing in the World Class area

Pedro Morales would be able to battle back and regain the WWC North American title from Sweet Daddy Siki.

. . . **Pedro Morales** has regained the WWC North American heavyweight title from **Sweet Daddy Siki** in Puerto Rico.

Bobby Heenan had been managing seven-time NWA champion **Harley Race** in the St. Louis area, but it appears as if that association

is crumbling. Race was wrestling in a World title match against current champion **Ric Flair**. During the match, Heenan interfered and was hit several times by Flair. In the ensuing confusion, Race tripped over Heenan and, caught off-balance, was pinned by Flair. As it was a World title match, Race's Missouri title reign was not affected, but I'm sure that his attitude toward Heenan has changed considerably!

Al Perez and **Manny Fernandez** captured the Southwest tag team championship belts from **The Fabulous Blonds**, **Eric Embry** and **Ken Timbs.** In the televised title match, Embry was trying to escape from a particularly angered Fernandez when he slammed into his own tag team partner. Timbs, stunned from the blow, was an easy victim for Fernandez' pin attempt. After the decision was made official, **The Kiwi Sheepherders—Butch Miller** and **Luke Williams**—ran into the ring and attacked Perez and Fernandez. Seconds later, **Bobby Jaggers** ran into the midst of the melee with a two-by-four and cleared the ring.

Big news from Lexington, Kentucky: During a Mid-American title match between **Jerry Lawler** and **Randy Savage**, a man in a suit came running into the ring from the audience and attacked Lawler. Sadly, that man was **Lanny Poffo**. Poffo had recently left the Mid-South area due to controversies surrounding his occasional tag team partner there, **Magnum T.A.**, and Magnum's then-adviser, **Mr. Wrestling II**. Wrestling II had warned Magnum about teaming with Poffo, claiming that the influence of his family, brother Randy Savage and father **Angelo Poffo**, would be a detriment to his career. Now that Lanny has shown such an attitude against Lawler, perhaps Wrestling II was right all along!

And that's what's happening. See you at the matches! □

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CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

(Continued from page 10)

which Ken Timbs and Eric Embry (known as "The Fabulous Blonds") teamed with Sheepherder Butch Miller against fan favorites Bobby Jaggers, Manny Fernandez, and Al Perez.

Jaggers, Perez, and Fernandez took the early advantage in the match, keeping Embry far from his own corner and taking turns inflicting punishment.

The advantage switched between the two teams a number of times afterward. Finally, all six men came into the ring at once. Fernandez and Miller fought in one corner, and Timbs and Embry double-teamed Perez in another corner while Jaggers lay semiconscious in the center of the ring.

The Fabulous Blonds had Perez poised for a double-suplex when Fernandez blocked the move, saving his partner. He and Perez then rolled both Timbs and Embry into simultaneous small packages for the victory.

In other bouts, Mil Mascaras vs. Jos LeDuc ended in a double-disqualification . . . Bobby Fulton defeated Adrian Street . . . Killer Brooks defeated Scott Casey . . . Bill Howard defeated Tony Falk.

Ken Timbs directs his fist at a downed Al Perez during a six-man tag team match in Beaumont, Texas.

Atlanta, Georgia ***(Correspondent—*****Byron Stone*****):*** A special four-man tag team match involved six participants at The Omni. National tag team champions The Road Warriors, Animal and Hawk, opposed the team of Austin Idol and Jerry

Manager Paul Ellering would be handcuffed to the ringpost during the first fall as his Road Warriors battled Jerry Lawler and Austin Idol.

Lawler in a two-out-of-three-fall title match.

Manager Precious Paul Ellering was handcuffed to the ringpost in one corner, and King Kong Bundy, an enemy of Ellering's Legion of Doom, was handcuffed to the opposite ringpost. The winners of the first fall would be allowed to unhandcuff the man in their corner.

Hawk and Lawler began the match for their teams. Hawk quickly scooped Lawler up and viciously bodyslammed him. He tagged Animal, but did not leave the ring as both men double-teamed Lawler with punches and kicks.

Lawler made it back to his own corner to tag Idol, who managed to bodyslam Animal, but soon fell into the wrong corner. The Warriors brutalized Idol, and then, with Animal holding Idol's legs down from outside the ring, Hawk pinned the "Universal Heartthrob" to win the first fall. Ellering was let loose from the restraints, amid the boos of the crowd.

The second fall was a turnaround of the first. Lawler and Idol tagged frequently and frustrated the Warriors with scientific maneuvers. Lawler dropped Hawk for the second fall.

The third fall was a hurricane of activity, with both teams disregarding the referee and the rules. Finally, all four men were disqualified. After the match, Bundy, still handcuffed to the ringpost, amazed the crowd in the style of the silver screen's King Kong, breaking the handcuffs with one pull. Bundy then chased Ellering and The Road Warriors back to the dressing room.

In other matches, Ron Garvin beat Jake Roberts in a strap match . . . Brad Armstrong defeated The Spoiler . . . Tim Horner beat NWA junior heavyweight champion Les Thornton in a non-title match . . . Sweet Brown Sugar beat Bob Roop. □

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BUZZ SAWYER

(Continued from page 33)

own beliefs and actions are helping to refine and amplify those very tendencies.

If anything, Buzz Sawyer is more vicious, violent, and dangerous than ever before.

"Oh yes, the signs are all pointing to the darkness of victory and the victory of darkness," Sullivan said. "This is the time of the season, and there are individuals in Florida who have a lesson to learn.

Sawyer's fingers find the eyes of Dusty Rhodes. Sawyer is wrestling more aggressively than ever before. Kevin Sullivan is proud of his influence on Sawyer.

They may learn it slowly, they may believe they are winning their own battles, but given the vast arc of time and experience, they will come to realize that it is the dark side that wills out in the end. And Buzz Sawyer is an important facet in the jewel of darkness that is named Kevin Sullivan. *Hahaha!*"

***

"I've been following the wrestling scene down here for more than 25 years," said our Florida correspondent T.G. Nathan, "and I've never seen such an overwhelming concern for any individual wrestler's career as there is right now for Buzz Sawyer.

"The thing is that many of these fans remember not too long ago when Buzz was a fan favorite in the Georgia area," Nathan continued. "They remember how Buzz and his brother, Brett, got together again, and how Brett had such a positive influence on his brother.

"But when you take a man, any man, not just Buzz, and place him under the influence of Kevin Sullivan for an extended period of time, it's got to have a bad influence. I don't know about Kevin, and I don't know anything about how he manages to get this power over people. But I do know that he has this power, and it's destroying Buzz Sawyer." ☐

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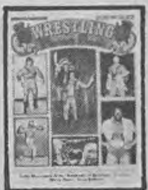
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GARVIN-ROBERTS

(Continued from page 35)

Garvin and Roberts engaged in a seesaw battle of tactics that provided neither competitor with a clearcut advantage. Garvin pounded away with his "hands of stone," while Roberts failed several times to apply the DDT maneuver.

The turning point in the match came when the action spilled out of the ring. After a quick exchange of blows, Roberts acknowledged Ellering's command to get back into the ring before he would be counted out.

Garvin draws Roberts toward him by his waistband and clubs him in the kidneys with his "hands of stone" (above). Before The Snake could hit him with his boot, Garvin slammed a chair across his head and covered the champion for the victory (below).

Garvin, however, had already received a taste of Roberts' blood during the ringside battle. He was thirsty for more.

Garvin quickly grabbed a steel folding chair from ringside and proceeded to reenter the ring. Meanwhile, Roberts had removed one of his boots and was receiving hasty instructions from Ellering.

Roberts' boot never found its intended mark as Garvin brought the chair down on the Roberts' head with a shocking crash of flesh and bone against steel. Garvin threw the chair out of the ring, turned Roberts' shoulders to the mat, and the referee slammed the canvas three times.

Ronnie Garvin had regained the National television title belt that he loved so dearly.

"That match was a travesty of justice," Ellering howled during a postmatch interview. "Any reasonable wrestling fan who saw a tape of that match would recognize that Ronnie Garvin should have been disqualified immediately!

Disregarding the blood streaming down his face, Garvin celebrates his victory (above). Manager Precious Paul Ellering sees to his fallen champion (below).

"Oh, you're a clever individual, Ronnie Garvin, clever as a thief in the night. But you've outsmarted yourself this time. The wrath of the entire Legion of Doom will come hurtling at you like a bolt of lightning. And you'll never know when it will strike next!"

Ronnie Garvin's reply?

"I'm not afraid of Ellering, his goons, or anything or anyone else. I've got the belt back around my waist, the support of the fans behind me, and my self-respect. Too bad for Ellering that he can't claim any of those things!" □

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LAWLER & DILLON

(Continued from page 37)

first, but finally tagged Hart, who quickly ran back to the dressing room with LeDuc. Lawler was left alone to wrestle Muhammad, Konga, and Dillon. Miraculously, "The King" pinned Dillon for the victory. It would be the last time, however, that Lawler ever trusted Jimmy Hart. It was also be the end of the Lawler-LeDuc tag team.

"I gave up the title," Lawler said. "There was no way that I was gonna have anything to do with LeDuc or Hart. It wasn't worth it. It wasn't even worth a title. Hart is so crooked, he makes a corkscrew look straight. I'm embarrassed that I actually wrestled with him. Well, I wanted that title, and I would have wrestled with a trained moose to get it. But I never thought it would come to a situation like this. Hart's gonna pay."

Hart's first payment would be made to Dillon, however, as the two managers signed to wrestle each other. The match ended in a double-disqualification when LeDuc and Lawler both interfered in the match, LeDuc for his manager Hart, and Lawler, amazingly, for Dillon!

Shortly after the incident, Lawler and Dillon called a press conference to make an astonishing announcement: Jerry and J.J. had formed a tag team and would be wrestling Hart and LeDuc.

"I don't like the things that J.J. Dillon stands for," Lawler said, "and I didn't like the little powerplay he used to manipulate me into teaming with LeDuc in the first place, but at least you know that he's not a raving fool like Jimmy Hart. Hart is an idiot. He puts his own ego ahead of winning a match. Well, I've had my first and last bad experience with that.

"Also, for some strange reason, I trust Dillon," Lawler continued. "He's not gonna walk away from the ring. I'm sure of it. Still, I

LeDuc's eyes bulge as he chokes Lawler along the ropes. Not long ago, LeDuc and Lawler were the Mid-Southern tag team champions.

don't think you could call us friends."

Dillon agreed, and while he noted that he didn't believe this partnership would last, he was highly complimentary of his new tag team partner. "We all know that Jerry Lawler and I have very, very different philosophies when it comes to our profession," he said, "but there is absolutely no doubting that he is a courageous warrior in the ring, and he is also a man who is driven by an incredible will to succeed. I admire that sense of purpose in a man."

If Dillon and Lawler have one thing in common, it is a common target for their hatred. It is a hatred so strong that it makes all the things that they don't have in common seem almost meaningless. ☐

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